In this issue…

Please Return Your Subscription Postcard

Page 1

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Page 12

Community Photo Album

Page 20

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WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

June/July/August 2011 Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz/Av/Elul Volume XXXV: Number 10 FREE

Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan to perform at JCC, July 13

Shoshana Jackson, special to the WJN

Each year the Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan spends a day entertaining and educating the campers at Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's summer day camp for children entering grades K–8. After spending the day at camp, the Israel Scouts will entertain the entire community with an evening performance at the JCC.

The Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 teenage scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel. Using song, dance, and storytelling, the Israel Scouts celebrate the Jewish heritage and bring the sights and sounds of Israel to life.

This summer the Israel Scouts will be performing at the JCC on Wednesday, July 13. The program will begin at 7 pm and will be followed by a community ice cream social. The charge for the event is $3/person for Camp Raanana families and JCC members, or $5 person for non-members (children under 2 are free). Registration forms will be posted in advance at www.jccannarbor.org and will also be available at the JCC.

Host families are needed to host the members of the Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan for one night on Wednesday, July 13. If you are interested in hosting or would like more information about the Israel Scouts performance, contact campdirector@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

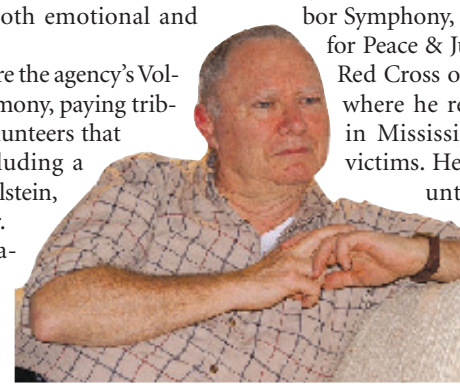
JFS celebrates volunteers, multiculturalism and cuisine

Jennifer Arapoff, special to WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) will hold its International Lunch, together with the agency's Volunteer Appreciation event, June 7, from noon-3:30 p.m., at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road. The International Lunch tradition began in 2001, and features homemade dishes prepared by the agency's ESL (English as a Second Language) students, representing Iraq, Somalia, Russia, India, China, Argentina and other countries. Many of the students are political refugees or émigrés whose personal stories of survival are both emotional and compelling.

The day will also feature the agency's Volunteer Appreciation ceremony, paying tribute to more than 200 volunteers that currently serve JFS, including a special honor for Bob Millstein, a long-time JFS volunteer.

"This year's International Lunch is shaping up to be the largest and most successful yet," says Barbara Shreier, a long-time JFS volunteer and ESL instructor, who came up with the idea 10 years ago. "The event has grown every year, and the venue (Cobblestone Farm) will allow us to really spread out and showcase the work that JFS does, while allowing our students and volunteers to celebrate their successes with other members of the community."



Bob Millstein

Milstein has volunteered at JFS since 2008, primarily helping clients with limited English skills to develop resumes and apply for jobs. In addition, he volunteers at Food Gatherers, Neighborhood Senior Services, Ann Arbor Symphony, the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (ICPJ) and The Red Cross of Washtenaw County, where he recently was deployed in Mississippi to help tornado victims. He is also an active volunteer for Temple Beth Emeth, serving as a former board member and the Social Action Committee, Back Door Pantry and Faith & Food Garden.

"Bob was recognized not only for his role with JFS," says Deborah Renner, JFS Community Outreach director, "but because he is a 'super volunteer' throughout Washtenaw County. He cares about the people in this community, and it shows in everything he does for it."

In addition to the luncheon and volunteer event, there will be a screening of the film documentary, *Welcome to Shelbyville*. The film looks at a small Tennessee town and its population as it integrates refugees and other new Americans into its already diverse landscape.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is the only official U.S. State Department agency providing similar immigration and refugee services in the county. Services include helping people establish new homes, prepare for citizenship, learn English, seek employment, secure government documents and adapt to American culture and life.

There is no fee to attend the lunch and reception; a $10 donation is suggested for the film screening. RSVP to Jennifer Arapoff at Jennifer@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209. ■

You can help keep the *Washtenaw Jewish News* free –and win a $25 gift certificate!

Have you sent back your subscription request postcard that came in your May *Washtenaw Jewish News?* If yes, thank you so much! If no, please read on. There's still time to help us keep the *Washtenaw Jewish News* free – and win a $25 gift certificate!

We've all been affected by the rise in postage costs. In addition, other expenses related to publishing the *Washtenaw Jewish News* have also

increased. In order to maintain the quality of this publication, we have decided to apply for the second-class periodical rate. To that end, we have to show the post office that our readers want to keep receiving the *Washtenaw Jewish News.*

Please complete and date the postcard that was included in last month's WJN, affix a 44¢ stamp, and mail it back to us – or drop it at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. If you do not still have the postcard, please email us at **wjn.subscribe@gmail.com** and we will happily send you another postcard – or you can pick one up at the JCC or Beth Israel Congregation or Temple Beth Emeth. As of today, we still need to hear from 1,200 more households.

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Picketers say "Imam is wrong," that Islam ok's their synagogue protests

by WJN *staff*

A prominent imam was wrong to characterize as "un-Islamic" the ongoing protests outside Jewish worship services in Ann Arbor, insist members of the protesting group. They dismissed the criticism as stemming from the imam's "misapplication of the teachings of the Prophet."

Imam Daud Walid, executive director of the Michigan branch of the Council on American-Islamic Affairs, termed the synagogue protests contrary to Muslim teaching during an interfaith panel at the Ann Arbor District Library last January (*Washtenaw Jewish News*, March 2011). Expanding on his criticism in an interview with the *Arab American News* Walid noted that, "We at CAIR-MI have expressed numerous times throughout the year our issues with people protesting in front of mosques on our most holy day and even badgering children. We'd be hypocrites to say it's not civil in front of mosques yet to endorse it taking place at other houses of worship." (*AAN* March 19, 2011)

That critique was rejected by the protesting group in a series of online ripostes. The first denied that the Conservative Jewish services they picket even qualify as religious practice, defiantly concluding: "Praying for genocide is not worship." That Jews are inside the synagogue praying for genocide has been a recurring theme of the protestors. Gloria Harb, one of the original picketers, told a congregant arriving for Sabbath services that it was the reason why Jewish prayers should be disrupted.

Subsequently elaborating on their rejection of the imam's admonition, protestors cited a Quranic verse commanding believers not to insult members of other religions lest they in turn be led to insult God. Assuming this to be the basis for labeling their actions "un-Islamic," protestors invoked an interpretation by medieval Muslim commentator Ibn Kahtir to debunk the imam's "misapplication" of the verse to themselves. Besides, asserted spokesman Henry Herskovitz, the "practices of Beth Israel Congregation are the real insult to God." Others insisted Islam enjoins adherents to speak out against injustice so their religion compels them to support targeting the synagogue.

Questioning Walid's motives for disapproving their behavior, Herskovitz blogged that the imam may have been seeking "a kind of acceptance, like Arab women in 'dialogue' groups with Jewish women."

"The 'interfaith' community might be providing the Imam with similar 'in-group' feelings of acceptance," suggested Herskovitz, driving him to emulate interfaith dialogue groups who "fall all over themselves trying to please them [Jews]."

Walid's condemnation was particularly welcomed by synagogue congregants in that a teacher at the Michigan Islamic Academy—Thom Saffold—has been central to the harassment their families have endured every Sabbath and High Holiday for years. With a Muslim voice now added to the censure of Ann Arbor's other religious and civic leaders, the protestors took heart from one supporter who cheers their activity from afar: Jews' need to be challenged at their synagogues, wrote a fan from Bristol, England, because they are overly powerful and "the damage they can inflict is huge."

In April, rabbis of the targeted synagogue strongly urged their congregants to support the Interfaith Leadership Council of the Detroit area in repudiating pastor Terry Jones' then-upcoming protest at the Islamic Center of America. "This type of protest against a religious faith is an affront to all," the rabbis told their congregants. Earlier the synagogue picketers held their own event, at a branch of the Ann Arbor library. According to their report, they received encouragement from a supportive audience drawn largely from "the Dearborn community," as well as from Unitarian Universalists and from a group calling itself "Michigan Peace Team." ■

See related article, "The picketers' intellectual assumptions examined," on page 12.

JCC to host Shabbat BBQ at Lillie Park

Mimi Weisberg, special to the WJN

Lillie Park will be the setting for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's "A Walk in the Park," a Shabbat celebration, on Friday, July 8 at 6 p.m. The park is located at 4200 Platt Road. This program will feature a nature walk with a professional naturalist, a celebration of Shabbat, music and a hot dog supper. The cost is $10 per adult for JCC members and $12 for non-members. Children 13 and under are $5. Reservations are required; call 971-0990.

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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The deadline for the *Guide to Jewish Life in Washtenaw County, 2011-2012,* is Friday, June 10.
Publication date: August 2011

Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

In this issue...

Advertisers 39
Books 11
Calendar 31
Campus 4
Congregations 14
Kosher Cuisine 30
On Another Note 28
Seniors 7
Teens 17
Youth 18
Vitals 39
Women 8

Three Wishes: constructive dialogue about the Middle East

Neal Elkin, special to the WJN

Fifty people came together at the Jewish Community Center on April 24 to hear five local youth reading excerpts from Deborah Ellis' compelling book, *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Each of the youth assumed the identity of one of the children in the book and read a short essay from

Irene Butter

the book; then, each reader summarized their own reaction to the essay.

The presentation, sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Society Social Action Committee (SAC), was the brainchild of two local members of the Jewish community, holocaust survivor Irene Butter, and Mark Wenzel, who were both deeply moved by Ellis' book. This was first presented at the Unitarian Church in Ann Arbor earlier this year. Kristine Freeark from SAC

Nadeem Persico-Shammas,

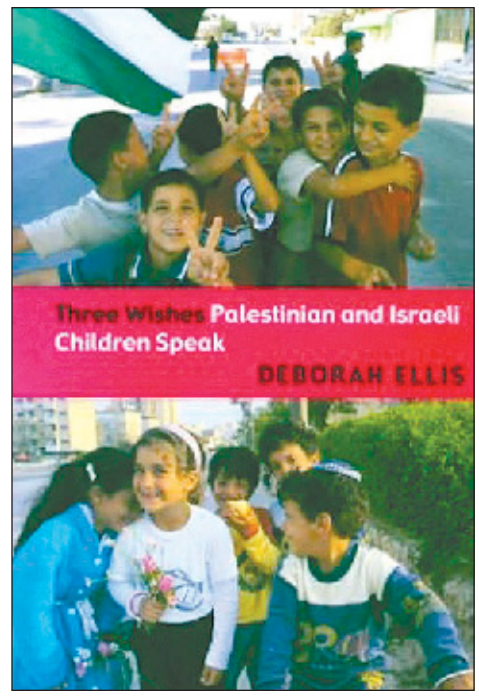
arranged to bring the cast to the JCC for their second performance.

Irene Butter explained her motivation for undertaking this project.

"I grew up as a child in Nazi-occupied Europe. I saw the persecution of Jews. I know what it's like to be a powerless child deeply affected by what's going on in the world.

"These stories that Deborah Ellis collected and published are gripping. Israeli Jewish children and Palestinian children live in this war zone and that's what they've known all their lives.

"What comes through in these stories is hatred for one another. They want to kill. They want to throw stones. They want to use weapons. Some of them say they've never even met a Palestinian child or an Israeli child, but they hate each other. This is really sad for these children at the ages of 12 to 18."



Mark Wenzel, co-producer of the project, summed up his perspective.

"The vulnerabilities, the anxieties and the pain, the powerlessness, the sheer helplessness of being caught up in the chaotic world of adults and governments. These young people have no alternative but to respond to events not of their own choosing—they must act, they must respond! The situations our Palestinian and Israeli Jewish children are in are barely imaginable for most of us.

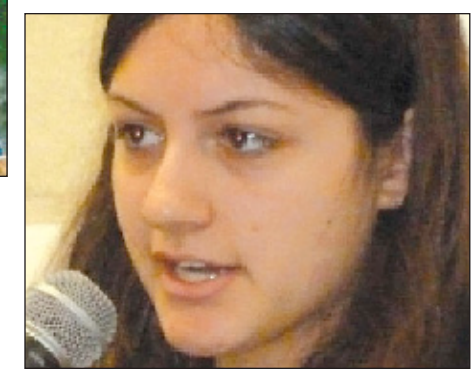
"It's called a conflict. It's called an occupation. It's called a war. The children will tell you what it's called once you hear their stories."

The cast included Sonya Kotav, Erin Olinsky, Nadeem Persico-Shammas, Emma Share, and Julia DeVarti.

Readings addressed the conflict from many sides. Following the five presentations, the au-

Mark Wenzel

dience broke up into small groups to discuss their feelings about the views expressed, as well as thoughts about where we're going from here. Many participants felt the presentation was a very effective catalyst for discussion. Many members of the audience came away feeling more deeply and immediately the tragedy of Middle East Conflict, as we're witnessing a new generation of young people growing up in an atmosphere of fear, distrust, and mutual hate.



Julia DeVarti

To continue the dialogue, Butter and Wenzel are hoping to present Three Wishes in other venues locally. For more information about the Jewish Cultural Society Social Action Committee, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org. ■

Ann Arbor community members send "Letter for Peace" to Senators Levin and Stabenow

By Ruth Kraut

Recently, over 150 members of the Washtenaw County community—both Jewish and non-Jewish—sent a "Letter for Peace" to Senators Levin and Stabenow. Ron Gregg, one of the letter's drafters and a member of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, explains that "It's important for members of every faith to express their sentiments to our state's senators that we believe that peace in Israel and Palestine is a very important issue for the U.S. government." Many members of the local Jewish community signed this letter, and the organizers are planning to try to set up a follow-up meeting with the senators.

The letter states:

We believe that a negotiated peace between Israel and Palestine will result in better humanitarian conditions for both Palestinians and Israelis. Even though progress toward that goal is stalled, we are confident that it is in the interest of the United States government to take a bold and assertive approach to help the parties end the conflict.

We urge the U.S. government to immediately engage both Israel and the Palestinian leadership in a process, with continuing U.S. participation, to draw the actual border between the two states so as to:

• Create a viable and contiguous Palestinian state on the equivalent of the land beyond the 1967 Green Line with mutually agreeable one-to-one land swaps to allow some existing settlements to be a part of Israel's future recognized sovereign territory.

• Address the future status of Jerusalem and immediate environs.

• Simultaneously, address and finalize the security arrangements between Israel and a demilitarized Palestine, and at Palestine's external international border crossings, allowing for the deployment of an international force to guarantee the agreed provisions.

• Once the border and security arrangements are agreed and in accordance with an agreed-upon timetable, Israel will withdraw from all of the territories designated for the Palestinian state and all other provisions will be implemented.

• In parallel with implementation of the border/security arrangements, negotiations will then continue (or resume) on all other outstanding final status issues.

Ruth Kraut is a co-signer of the above letter.

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Jewish Communal Leadership: The adventure continues at the U-M

Karla Goldman, special to the WJN

With the end of the University of Michigan academic year, the first cohort of Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) students has taken leave of Ann Arbor to begin the next phase of their JCLP journey. Spreading out to San Francisco, Chicago, New York City, Boston, and Detroit, they are beginning summer field placements in a range of change-making Jewish agencies including the Jewish Urban Affairs Council, Upstart Bay Area, Hazon, Jewish Funds for Justice, the Hebrew Rehabiliation Center, and JVS Detroit. The JCLP students will be back in September joined by a new group of aspiring Jewish communal leaders and professionals.

These students have pioneered a new beginning for Jewish communal leadership training at the University of Michigan, built upon the strong traditions established by Project STaR and Drachler Program alumni and by Armand Lauffer and Robin Axelrod, the directors of these earlier collaborations between the School of Social Work and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

This year, the students focused on connecting with each other, establishing themselves as active participants in the Ann Arbor Jewish community, and creating relationships with Jewish community leaders.

The students' adventures this year focused on building connections with each other, establishing themselves as active participants in the Ann Arbor Jewish community, and creating relationships with Jewish community leaders in the Detroit region and around the country. These relationships grew amidst a whirl of activity which included welcoming the community to the School of Social Work 's first courtyard sukkah; serving as Board fellows for Jewish organizations in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit; attending national Jewish organizational conferences in New Orleans, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.; meeting with Drachler and STaR alumni from the region and around the country; learning from community leaders and philanthropists like Mandell Berman, Harlene Appelman (Covenant Foundation), Simon Greer (Jewish Funds for Justice), Scott Kaufman (Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit), and Robert Aronson (Birthright Foundation); visiting Jewish institutions in Metro Detroit; a tour of Detroit Jewish history with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan; meeting with some of Detroit's young Jewish urban community builders; and hosting national thought leaders from Jewish Funds for Justice, Congregation IKAR, and Hazon who came to Ann Arbor to meet with the JCLP students and to engage in a series of public Communal Conversations co-sponsored by the Covenant Foundation.

All of this, of course, was in addition to a heavy academic course load in social work and Judaic studies. It's truly been an adventure in Jewish community. As the JCLP students have deepened their own perspectives and built relationships with each other, they have also extended their circle of conversation into Washtenaw County and beyond. The second year of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program promises to bring further adventures, including field placements in Jewish organizations across the region; new classmates; closer engagement with issues related to Jewish communal involvement in the city of Detroit; and an ever-growing connection to local Jewish needs, challenges, and possibilities. ■

Karla Goldman is director of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at U-M.

JCLP Group visiting the Clinton St. Greater Bethlehem Temple in Detroit, former home of the Congregation Shaarey Zedek. Left to Right, first row : Tim Hill (Clinton St. Greater Bethlehem Temple), Liz Kohn, Karla Goldman, Ariel Pearl-Jacbvitz, Talya Gates-Monasch, Joshua Kanter, Sara Shvartzman, Ilana Schuman-Stoler; Second Row: Jerry Cook (Jewish Historical Society of Michigan)

Frankel Institute assembles roster of accomplished Jewish scholars

Kim Reick Kunoff, special to the WJN

Each year, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan invites scholars to Ann Arbor to pursue research projects on a general theme. For 2011–2012, the group—led by U-M Political Science Professor Zvi Gitelman—will gather around the theme of "Jews and Political Life."

"Jewish ideas are largely absent from the academic study of political theory, and the analysis of political behavior has little place in Judaic studies despite renewed interest in a Jewish political tradition," explains Gitelman. "During the coming academic year, we hope to study and bring to light Jewish political ideas and patterns of Jewish political behavior, identifying what they share with other traditions and what is unique to them."

The 2011-2012 Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies participants:

- Gershon Bacon, Bar-Ilan University The Politicization of the Hasidic Masses in Poland: The Case of Alexander (Aleksandrow) Hasidim, 1900-1930
- Olena Bagno-Moldavski, Stanford University Aetiology of the political culture of Jews from the Former Soviet Union now in Israel, Germany and Ukraine
- Miriam Bodian, University of Texas – Austin An Argument for Religious Toleration: The Inquisition Defense of a Seventeenth-Century Portuguese Jew
- Mia Bruch, Stanford University Theory and Practice: American Jews and the Science of Democracy

Zvi Gitelman (Head Fellow), University of Michigan Politics and Perspectives on the Holocaust in the Wartime Soviet Union

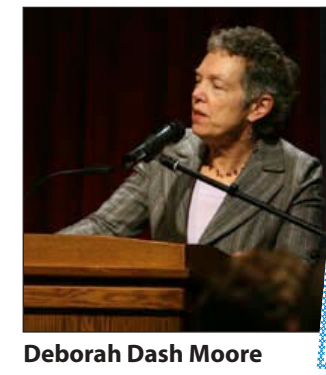
- Kenneth Goldstein, University of Wisconsin Measuring Public Attitudes in Israel
- Brian Horowitz, Tulane University The Development of Russian Zionism as a Social Movement
- Melissa Klapper, Rowan University Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Pre-World War II Activism
- Benjamin Pollack, Michigan State University Esotericism and Enlightenment: Salomon Maimon Between Politics and Metaphysics
- Michael Schlie, Indiana University Franz Rosenzweig, Leo Strauss, and the End of Political Theology
- Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers University "Last Witness:" Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History
- Andrew Sloin, Earlham College Pale Fire: The Jewish Revolution in White Russia, 1917-1929
- Sammy Smooha, University of Haifa Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State: The Palestinian-Arab Minority as the Litmus Test
- Kenneth Wald, University of Florida The Political Behavior of American Jewry
- Herbert Weisberg, Ohio State University The Distinctive Jewish-American Voter
- Lenore Weitzman, George Mason University The Politics of Jewish Divorce Law Reform: Agunah Activists in the US, Canada and Israel ■

For more information, visit www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/.

Outstanding historian honored, invited to Japan

Katherine M. Finley, special to the WJN

Deborah Dash Moore has been selected by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) to receive an OAH-JAAS Short-Term Residency at The University of Kitakyushu in American Jewish history. The OAH and the Japanese Association of American Studies, with the generous support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program that also brings Japanese graduate students to the OAH Annual Meeting. Dash Moore, the director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, is the Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History at the University of Michigan. The residency is scheduled to take place in late May/early June of this year.



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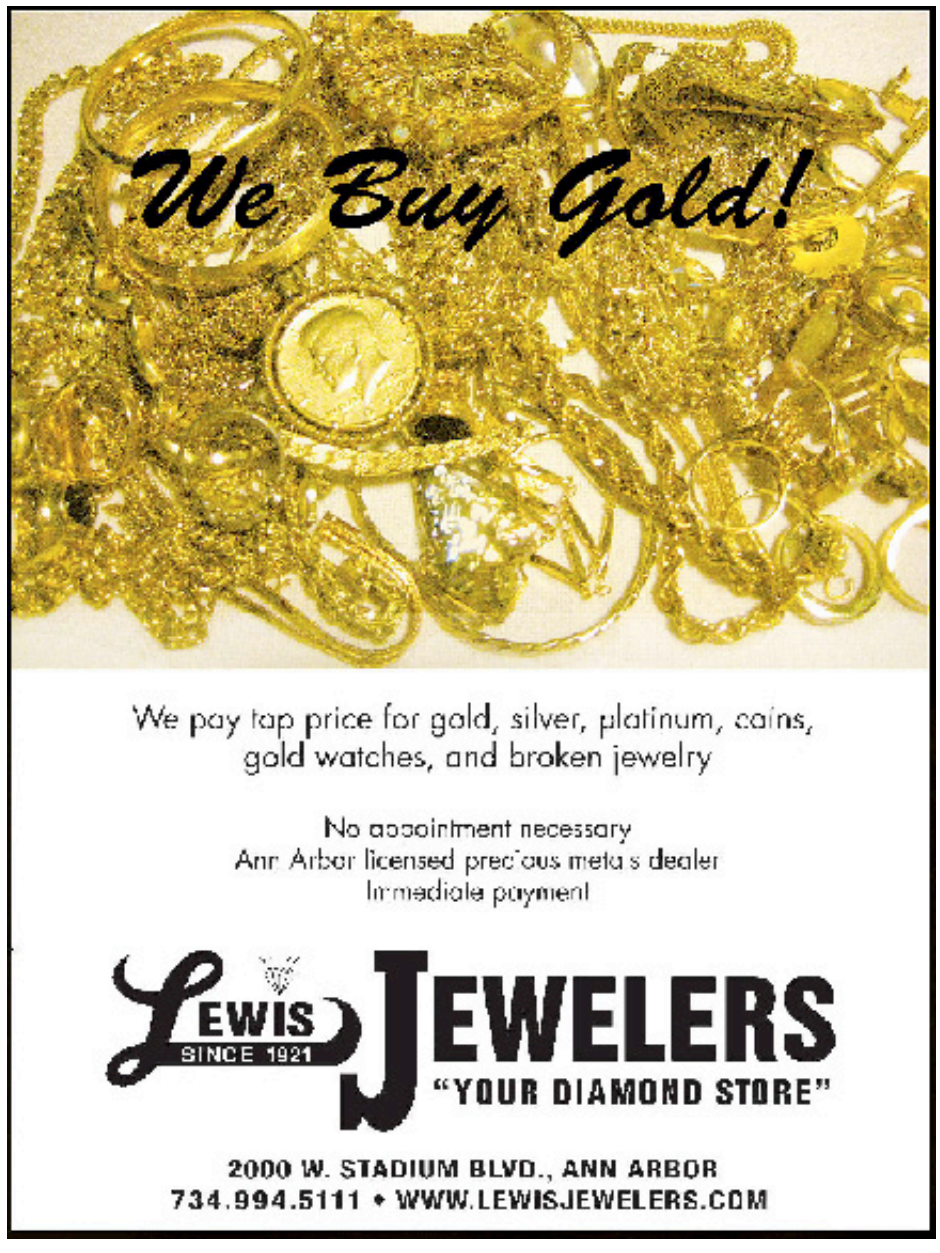
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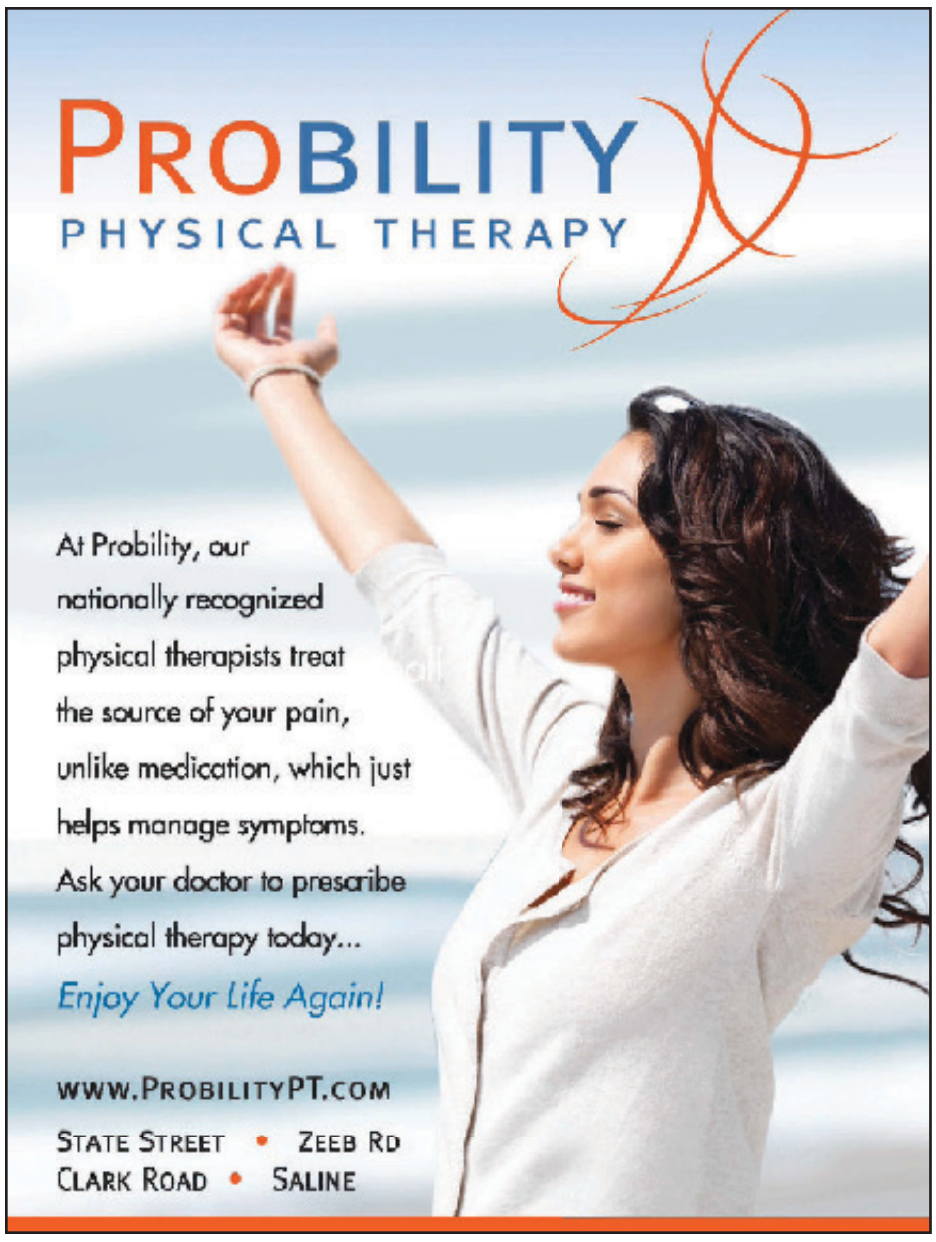
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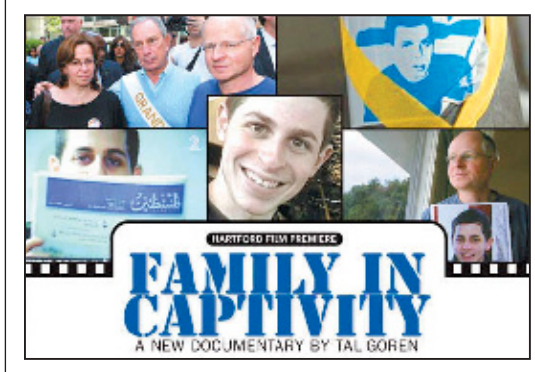
JCC, Federation, sponsor screening of Family in Captivity

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will co-sponsor a showing of *Family in Captivity*. The film chronicles the struggles of the Shalit family to secure the release of their son Gilad from five years of imprisonment by Hamas in Gaza. The film is being shown as part of a national effort by the Jewish Community Centers Association to raise awareness of Shalit's captivity, to show the impact of his captivity on the entire Shalit family, and to help garner support for the continuing efforts to secure his release.



Family in Captivity will be shown on Thursday evening, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC and will be followed by a facilitated discussion. Tickets are $10 per person and all profits will be provided to the fund for the release of Gilad Shalit.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged by calling the JCC at 971-0990 or by email to Mimi Weisberg at mimiweisberg@jccfed.org. Only cash or checks will be accepted for tickets at this event.

Community celebrates Melton graduation

Mimi Weisberg, special to the WJN

The entire community is invited to the graduation of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Ann Arbor on June 16, at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The evening will feature a dessert reception and guest speaker and Melton alumnus, Sid Lawrence, who will speak on "2000 Years of Hate: The Migration of the Cross to the Swastika." Honored attendees are the Melton Advisory Council and members of the Melton Alumni Association.

Melton graduates who have completed two years of study are: Bernie Banet, Noreen DeYoung, Alice Fishman, Ruth Freedman, Aron Kaufman, Barbara Kong, Anita Merritt, Howard Merritt, Leslie Rosenwasser, Harriet Selin, Ruth Shabazz, Karen Shill and Lisa Yellin.

Reservations are required; contact the JCC at 971-0990.

JCC to honor board and volunteers at annual meeting

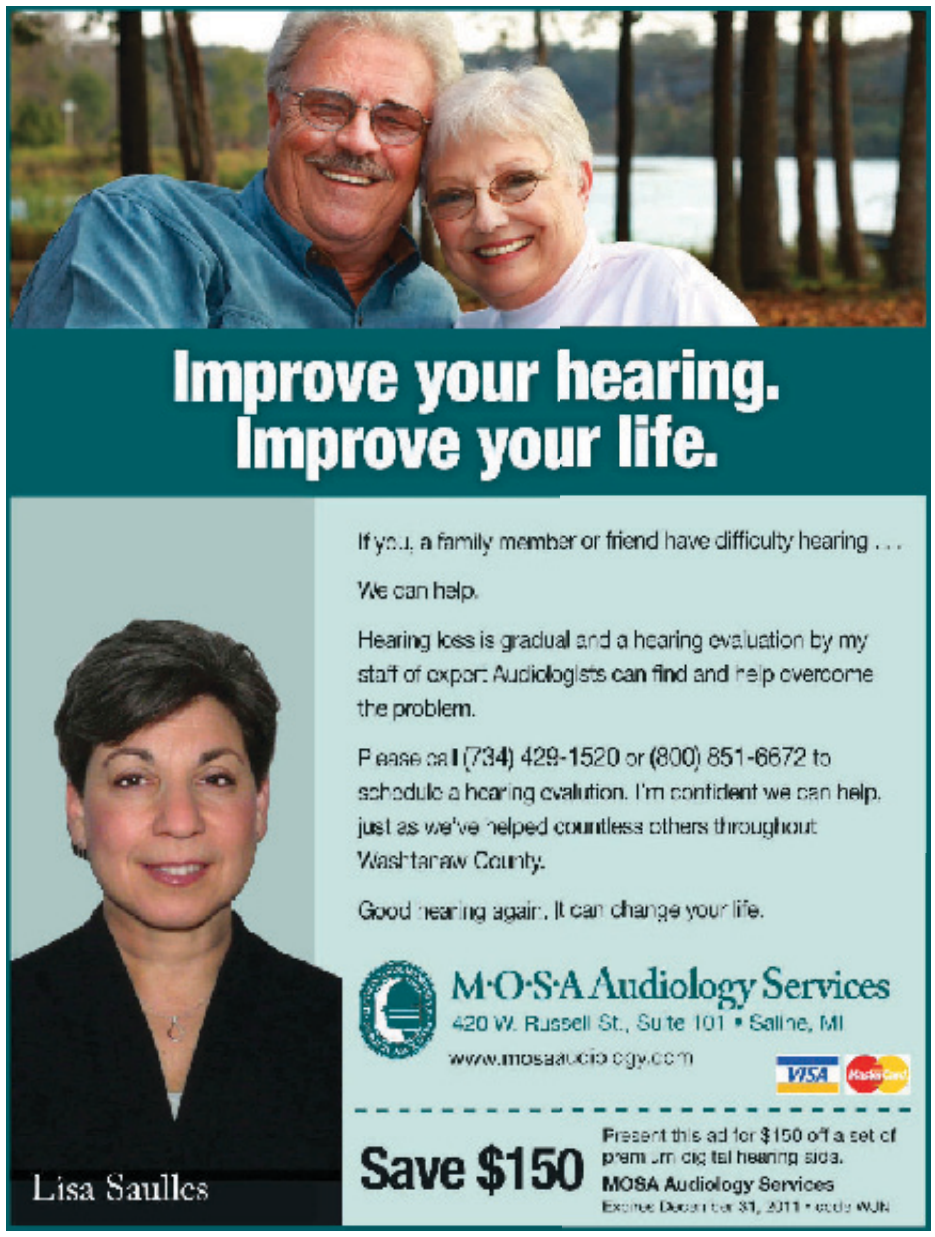
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 5, at 10 a.m. at the JCC. The morning promises to be a mix of business and pleasure as the JCC reflects on the successes of the past 12 months.

After a delicious brunch, the JCC will recognize retiring board members, elect new board members, and vote on a new slate of officers. Committee chairs will also report on this past year's activities. The President's Award for JCC Service, the Above and Beyond Award and the Krislov Award will be presented at the meeting. An audio-visual presentation of the past year's events will be a highlight of the morning.

The JCC appreciates its volunteers, and the annual meeting offers an opportunity to honor them and thank them for their hard work. Without the dedication of the volunteers, the myriad of educational and cultural events at the center would not be possible.

The meeting is open to all community members. Activities for attendees' children will be available during the meeting. RSVP by June 9. For more information, contact Rebekah Gamble at 971-0990 or rebekahgamble@jccfed.org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June/July/August SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Mondays

9–11:30 a.m.: Writing Your Wisdom facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins on June 13 and continues through August 15. No fee for the class but registration is required. Call Merrill at 971-0990 to register and for more information.

Tuesdays

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m.: Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects, and other card games.
1 p.m.: Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No sports or computer experience necessary.

Wednesdays

10–11:30 a.m.: Introduction to Water Color Painting with Ruth Mark. Class begins on June 15 and until July 20. Class fee $80 for JCC members, $100 for non-members. Call Merrill at 971-0990 for more information and to register.

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10
11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.
Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below for details)
2:15 p.m.: Sidney Warschausky Literary Group facilitated by group members. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

Fridays

9–10:30 a.m. Poetry Writing Workshop with Ray Adler, former instructor at Oakland Community College. Class begins on Friday, June 10 and contiues until July 22 No fee. Call Merrill at 971-0990 to register or for more information.
1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Reading Group at the Jewish Community Center. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765

Thursday special events and presentations

JUNE

June 2

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with June birthdays! Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.: Music students from the Hebrew Day School will perform including the HDS chorus, recorder ensemble and Klezkids.

June 9

JCC is closed for Shavout

June 16

12:30 pm: A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free.
1 p.m.: Welcome the new Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Andrea Rosner-Najer.

June 23

12:30 pm: Meet with the social worker. Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker, shoshona Mandel will meet with the group and be available for questions.
1:00 p.m.: Experience the keynote speech of the recent 10th Annual Peter Wege Lecutre on Sustainability by Dr. Larry Brilliant, CEO of the Skoll Global Threats Fund. Discussion to follow.

June 30

1 p.m.: Food Supplements are used by many people for many reasons – are they useful or harmful, are they effective or not worth the money. Robin Nwanko, nutritionist at the University of Michigan, will discuss these questions and others related to food supplements. Bring questions.

JULY

July 7

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with July birthdays! Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1:00 p.m.: Local Storyteller, Lynn Davidge, will share stories of her life while prompting your own stories.

July 14

12:30 pm: A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free
1 p.m.: Dr. Frederick Becchetti brings the magic of science to the JCC while "The Magnificant Frederico brings just magic.

July 21

12:30 pm: Meet with the social worker. Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker, shoshona Mandel will meet with the group and be available for questions.
1:00 pm: A local musician will perform.

July 28

1 pm: Robert Faber, longtime Ann Arbor resident, politician, business owner, currently a columnist for annarbor.com brings his musings, stories and wisdom to a presentation.

AUGUST

August 4

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with August birthdays! Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.: A local musican will perform.

August 11

12:30 p.m.: A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free.
1 p.m.: Mayor Heiftje will speak to the group about his visions for Ann Arbor.

August 18

12:30 p.m.: Meet with the social worker. Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker, shoshona Mandel will meet with the group and be available for questions
1:00 pm: Linda Garfield will present on topical issues in current events.

August 25

1 p.m.: A local Pharmacist will discuss medication safety. Bring questions.

Special Sunday event

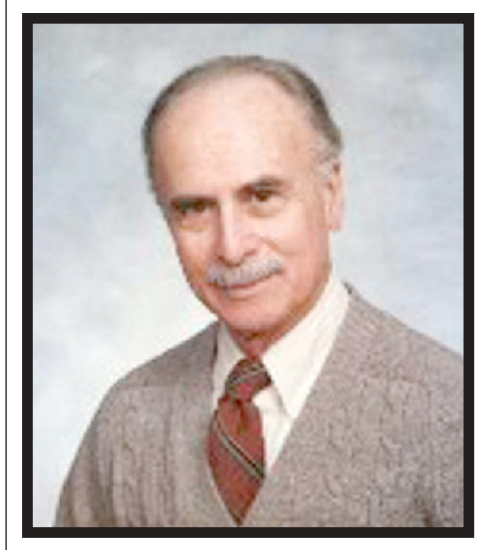
August 26

3–5 p.m.: Opening of the Senior Photography Exhibit. Meet the artists and view the photographs. Refreshments served. Free of charge. Open to the Public.

Literary Group mourns the loss of long-time leader, Sidney Warschausky

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

The Literary Group at the JCC has been meeting weekly for over 13 years discussing bestsellers and classic works of literature.



Sidney Warschausky

During this time, the group has been facilitated by Emeritus Professor Sidney Warschausky. Everyone who has ever attended the group has raved about Warschausky's knowledge, talent, style and charisma. Many have commented that they attended even if they didn't like a particular book just because they didn't want to miss something that Warschausky said.

The group was saddened by Warschausky's recent and unexpected death. Initially, they questioned whether the group could continue in the face of such a void. They decided, however, that continuing the group would be the greatest memorial they could create for him.

The group will continue to meet on a weekly basis at the JCC on Thursdays from 2:15 to 3 p.m. At this time, the members are facilitating as a group but would welcome volunteers who are interested in offering their services as a facilitator. They also welcome new members at any time. Call Merrill at 971-0990 for more information.

Three new classes offered at the JCC in June

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

The JCC SPICE Older Adults Program will sponsor three classes this summer.

"Writing Your Wisdom" will return to the JCC after a successful 2010 session that receiving much acclaim. The class will again be facilitated by Janice Thorup who will use a variety of prompts and other devices to inspire the class' writings. The class will take place at the JCC on Mondays from 9–11 a.m. beginning on June 13. Class size is limited and registration is required.

The SPICE Program will welcome local artist Ruth Marks to the JCC where she will be teaching "Introduction to Water Color Painting." Marks is the founder and director of Fly Art for Children and teaches at the Ypsilanti Senior Center as well as producing her own art. The class is scheduled for Wednesday from 10–11:30 a.m. starting on June 15. The fee for the class is $80 for JCC members and $100 for non-members. There is a minimum enrollment so be sure to register by June 10.

Ray Adler, SPICE participant, has had a long and varied career. He was not only an instructor of English at Oakland Community College, but also the head of a hospital speech pathology program. He will be teaching a poetry class at the JCC. The emphasis of the class will be creating your own work but readings of other poets may be included for inspiration and discussion. The class is scheduled for Fridays from 9–11 a.m. beginning on June 10. There is no fee for the class but registration is required.

Call Merrill Poliner at the JCC at 971-0990 for more information and to register.

Senior photography exhibit at the JCC

Merrill, Poliner, special to the WJN

The Senior Photography Exhibit, "Through Our Eyes" will return to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor this June and July. Past exhibits have included over 100 works from over 20 photographers. The works range from small to poster size; from realistic to computer altered; from landscapes to portraits. The exhibit will include photographs taken all over the world.

There will be a reception to celebrate the exhibit opening on Sunday, June 26 from 3–5 p.m. Come to view the artwork, meet the artists and enjoy the refreshments. The event is free and open to the public. Call Merrill Poliner at the JCC at 971-0990 for more information.

Beth Israel Women's League June events

Yvonne Wardle, special to the WJN

Jewels of Sisterhood Member Appreciation Luncheon and Celebration

On Sunday, June 5, from 1-3 p.m., Women's League will be host Jewels of Sisterhood—Women's League Member Appreciation Luncheon and Celebration. This event is free for Women's League members and their families, and $3 per person for non-members. The program will include a presentation—Shavuot & Ruth: The Strength and Beauty of the Jewish Woman; new board installation and recognition of the old board, lunch and other activities.

Women's League Shabbat and the Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service

On Saturday, June 11, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Beth Israel sanctuary, Women's League will sponsor the Annual Women's League Shabbat Service and the Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah Service. Everyone is to attend. The Torah Readings (Parashat Beha'alotcha) will be done by the 2010/2011 Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah Class, taught by Lisa Bernstein. This Shabbat service is a participatory one, with parts and honors signed-up for beforehand.

Sisterhood Bowling League

On Sunday, June 12, from 2-4 p.m. at the Colonial Lanes Bowling Center, the Women's League will host a Sisterhood Bowling League event. The Sisterhood Bowling League will normally meet on the first Sunday of each month, unless otherwise announced. The cost is: $9.95 for Women's League members, and $10.95 for non-Women's League members, and includes two hours of bowling time, and shoe rental. Pre-registration is required each month, to book the appropriate number of lanes needed.

Summer programs

The Beth Israel Women's League is hosting many summer programs and events for everyone, including summer teams for basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, badminton, and flag football. In July, there will be a Family Fun Day, including crafts, outdoor games, indoor games, snacks and refreshments, and a family-friendly movie. On July 17, from 7-9 p.m., there will be an Adults Night Out program, a time for adults to nosh and socialize. Sam Zwetchkenbaum, game master, will lead the event, which will include card games, board games, Mah Jongg, Bingo, and more. In August, there will be a family campout for Women's League members and their families.

Starting in July, there will be a monthly Women's League Sharsheret Group that is open to everyone. This group is for those that are survivors of Ovarian and/or Breast Cancer, and those who currently are caring for or dealing with either of these two health issues. Also starting in July, there will be a monthly Women's League Craft Group. This group is for socializing, while working on various crafts, such as counted cross-stitch, knitting, quilting, crocheting, and other various crafts. There will also be crafts for children.■

Ann Arbor ORT Spring Dinner, June 6

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will hold its annual Spring Dinner on Monday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m., at the Quarter Bistro at 300 Maple Road. The three-course dinner, offering a choice of three entrees, will cost $36 per person.

The dinner will provide ORT members and potential members the opportunity to dine with friends and to learn more about ORT America's programs which help students around the world attain high quality educations. The chapter's generous donors will be honored at the dinner. Brad "Bubba" Urdan, president of ORT America, Michigan Region, will be the featured speaker.

ORT, the largest Jewish education non-profit in the world, provides education in Jewish values and state-of-the-art technology education, focusing on the sciences and mathematics through a global network of schools and training programs in 55 countries. It enables 300,000 students and beneficiaries annually to attain successful careers, become community leaders and live independently. It is a non-profit, not-political organization that meets the educational and manpower training needs of contemporary society with more than 3,000,000 graduates worldwide since its inception.

Rides to the dinner are available to those who need them. For more information or to RSVP, contact Anne Heybey Wasciuk at annehey@umich.edu.

Mikveh Israel celebrates 36 years

Jennifer Perlove Siegel, special to the WJN

Mikveh Israel of Ann Arbor, housed at 715 Hill Street, adjacent to the University of Michigan's campus, is celebrating its 36th (or double-chai) birthday this year. The mikveh, located inside Chabad House, is a ritual bath run by a volunteer committee of community members. "The mikveh is used by women for ritual bathing and before their wedding, and for conversions to Judaism. Men also use the mikveh before holy days such as Yom Kippur. A mikveh is also used to make dishes, pots and utensils Kosher. When Jews settle in a new community, Jewish teaching says that a mikveh must be established before a shul—it is that important!" Esther Goldstein of Chabad notes. The mikveh is open to all community members for a nominal fee, or suggested donation, to cover cleaning and general upkeep.

After 36 years of loyal service, the Mikvah Israel needs a little pampering. A committee is in formation to raise $15,000 for much-needed renovations and updates, to keep the mikveh safe and attractive. Plans are being made for a new vanity, counter, sink and faucet, freshened paint, better lighting, and improved ventilation, as well as plumbing and electrical upgrades. Jennifer Perlove Siegel, M.Arch, has donated her design services for the renovation.

If you are interested in visiting the mikveh for a tour, or becoming involved in the renovation initiative, contact Esther Goldstein at esther@jewmich.com. Donations for Mikveh Israel's renovations are much appreciated and gratefully received at Chabad House, attn: Esther Goldstein, 715 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

The Jewish Women's Circle to host an evening of song

Gail Epstein, special to the WJN

Chavi Epstein

The Jewish Women's Circle of Washtenaw County will present their final event of the season with singer and presenter Chavi Epstein. Inspired by the Baal Shem Tov's passion for traveling from city to city to uplift the spirits of his fellow Jews, Epstein, who is traveling to Ann Arbor from South Carolina, has created her *niggunim* workshops to inspire and empower all women. Through song and story, Epstein will guide women as they tap into their own divine source of joy. This event will take place on Monday, June 13, at 6:45 p.m., at 3530 West Huron Drive. Organizers anticipate that the evening will be one of friendship, conversation, learning, introspection, and song. Wine and cheese will be served. All women bat-mitzvah age and older are welcome. For directions or more information, contact Esther Goldstein at 769-3078 or via email at esther@jewmich.com.

Hadassah resale program seeks donations

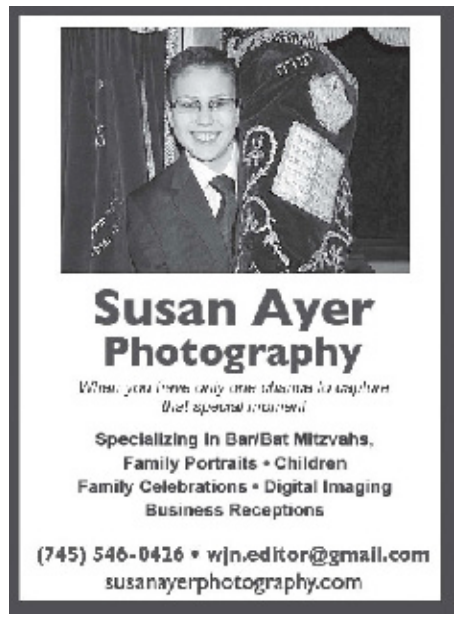
Judy Williams, special to the WJN

An ongoing Hadassah fundraiser is its resale program. Throughout the year, Hadassah collects women's clothing as well as household items and brings them to area consignment shops. Hadassah members will pick up items at donors' homes and leave a donation slip.

Hadassah would appreciate donations of clean, current name brand women's clothing (they accept any season at any time) and household items that are clean and in good condition, Donations will help Hadassah remain a vibrant organization within the community and contribute to its many programs in Israel and throughout the world.

To schedule a pick up appointment for women's clothing, contact Laurel Hern, at 663-0549. Women's Clothing needs to be clean, currently in style and on hangers.

To schedule an appointment for household items, contact Cecy Copeland at 487-4171. Hadassah accepts such items like dishes, glassware, linens, polished metalware, and small electrical appliances (in working order; however, no telephones or electronic devices).



133rd ums season 11/12

An Evening with Ahmad Jamal
Ahmad Jamal piano
James Cammack bass
Herlin Riley drums
Manolo Badrena percussion

Mozart's Late Quartets: "King of Prussia"
Emerson String Quartet

Mark Morris Dance Group
Mark Morris conductor and creator

The Infernal Comedy: Confessions of a Serial Killer
John Malkovich
Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra

Yuja Wang piano

State Symphony Capella of Russia

Goran Bregovic and His Wedding and Funeral Orchestra

Water Stains on the Wall
Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

Schola Cantorum of Venezuela

Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* and *Watt*
Gate Theatre of Dublin

Apollo's Fire
Jeannette Sorrell music director
Philippe Jaroussky countertenor

Audra McDonald

Diego El Cigala

AnDa Union

A Night in Treme: The Musical Majesty of New Orleans

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Beijing Guitar Duo
with **Manuel Barrueco**

Canadian Brass

Handel's *Messiah*

London Philharmonic Orchestra
Vladimir Jurowski conductor
Janine Jansen violin

Veni Emmanuel
Stile Antico

Einstein on the Beach
An Opera in Four Acts by
Philip Glass & Robert Wilson
Choreography by **Lucinda Childs**

Les Violons du Roy
Bernard Labadie conductor
Maurice Steger recorder

From the Canyons to the Stars
Hamburg Symphony Orchestra
Jeffrey Tate conductor
Francesco Tristano piano
Daniel Landau filmmaker

Sabine Meyer and the Trio di Clarone

Chamber Ensemble of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra

FAR
Random Dance

The Tallis Scholars

Sweet Honey In The Rock

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
Wynton Marsalis artistic director and trumpet

Hagen Quartet

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti conductor
Pinchas Zukerman violin

Max Raabe & Palast Orchester

Denis Matsuev piano

The Andersen Project
Ex Machina
Robert Lepage artistic director

Mavericks Festival 2012
San Francisco Symphony
Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Featuring:
Paul Jacobs organ
Jeremy Denk piano
Mason Bates laptop
Jessye Norman soprano
Meredith Monk and
Joan La Barbara vocalists
St. Lawrence String Quartet
Emanuel Ax piano

San Francisco Symphony Mavericks Chamber Concert

Zakir Hussain and Master Musicians of India

Cheikh Lô

Charles Lloyd Quartet
Charles Lloyd saxophones and flute
Jason Moran piano
Reuben Rogers bass
Eric Harland drums

Pavel Haas Quartet

Snow White
Ballet Preljocaj
Angelin Preljocaj artistic director

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Joshua Bell director and violin

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(Kosher) food for thought: Hazon–Fair Food Network partnership

Lucinda Kurtz, special to the WJN

Our food system is failing many of us. Designed to produce abundant food at low cost, it now does this by destroying some of what we hold most precious—our environment, our health, and our future. Hazon, the largest Jewish environmental organization in this country and globally, understands this looming crisis and is addressing it head-on and in a uniquely Jewish way. Hazon means "vision" and their vision is "to create healthy and sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond." Jews from all backgrounds and

Nigel Savage

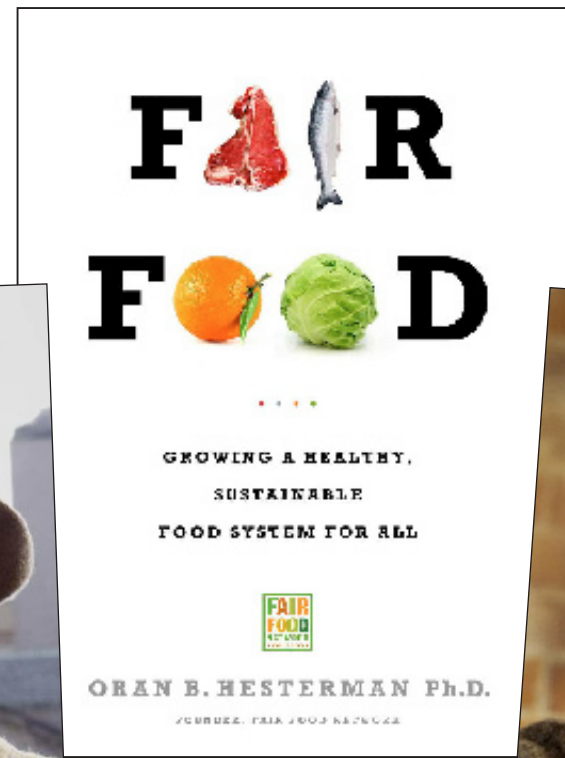
generations find Hazon's programs an inspirational way to connect with the environmental movement from a Jewish perspective and have an impact in their communities and the world.

A primary method of creating change is through their fast-growing food work. Certainly the Jewish tradition has addressed the issue of food and what is fit for us to eat—kosher—for 3,000 years. But now issues such as fair treatment of farm and restaurant workers, pesticide and hormone usage, industrial farming and food access have complicated the issue. Hazon created the Jewish Food Education Network to address these and other challenging topics through a Jewish perspective with innovative resources such as creative curricula on Jews, food, and contemporary life that are now being used in camps, homes, synagogues and Jewish day schools all over the country.

In addition, Hazon is the first and largest faith-based Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network in the country with over 10,000 individual participants. Formed in 2000, by 2011 they had so sparked the energy of young Jewish adults and the community-at-large that 56 Hazon CSA's were up and running all across the county at synagogues, Jewish day schools, Hillels, JCC's and other Jewish institutions, funneling over $1 million of resources from Jewish families into very local and sustainable farms.

Anyone interested in initiating a CSA can contact Hazon at csa@hazon.org.

"The Jew and the Carrot," a partnership between Hazon and the *Forward*, at www.jcarrot.org, is another exciting Hazon activity that supports the dissemination and exchange of ideas between interested community members about what is kosher—"fit" for us to eat from different perspectives.

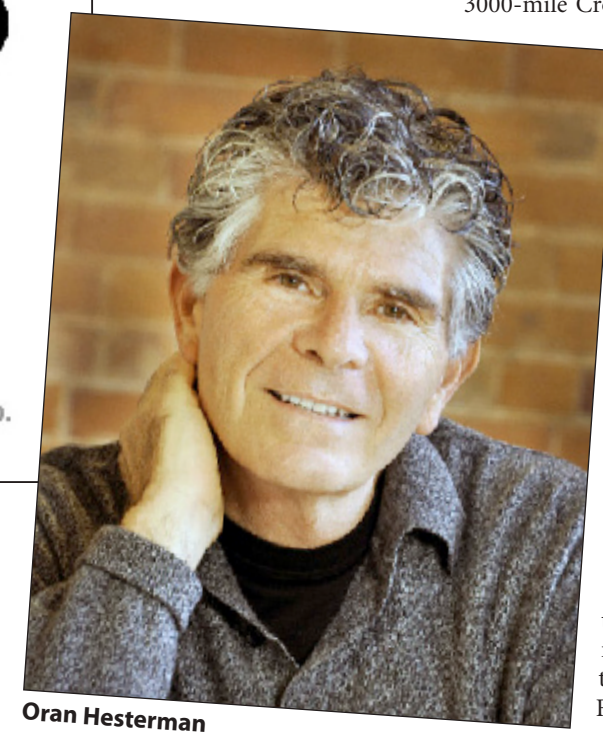


And it is at the annual Hazon Food Conference that all the CSA activists, food writers, chefs, nutritionists, rabbis, farmers, foodies, educators, families and their children come to learn, enjoy, taste and share excitement about food. When Nigel Savage, the articulate and dynamic president of Hazon read the review copy of Oran Hesterman's upcoming book, *Fair Food: Creating a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All*, he knew he had found his keynote speaker for the Hazon Food Conference, to be held this year August 18-21 at University of California Davis.

Dr. Oran Hesterman is president and CEO of Fair Food Network, a national nonprofit organization in Ann Arbor working at the intersection of food systems, sustainability and social equity to guarantee access to healthy, fresh and sustainably-grown food, especially in underserved communities. Hesterman has been an active member of the Jewish community from his early days in North Pacific Coast Young Judaea and Temple Beth El in Berkeley, California, to his present participation in Pardes Hannah, the Jewish Renewal community in Ann Arbor, and his co-founding of Or Tzafon, the Jewish Retreat Center in Northern Michigan.

Nigel Savage was in Ann Arbor on March 30 for one in the series of presentations in the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan. When Savage and Hesterman had lunch that day, there were sparks flying and a powerful "*shitah*" was created—a partnership between two leading visionaries in food systems change work who understand the importance of joining forces to address the broken food system for our children and future generations. Both Savage and Hesterman understand that change in the food system requires thoughtful and intentional actions to shift people from being conscious consumers to engaged citizens. They sense the powerful complimentary strengths each organization brings to the other.

With Hesterman's background as a professor of agronomy and Extension Specialist at Michigan State University followed by his 15 years as program director of the Food and Farming Systems Program at the Kellogg Foundation, he and Fair Food Network offers thought leadership and policy advocacy strategy to Hazon. Under Savage's ten years of leadership of Hazon, he offers strong and respected leadership and large cadres of Jewish activists eager and ready to move forward on these issues.



Oran Hesterman

Born in Manchester, England, Savage was a professional fund manager for the Rothschilds for nine years before founding Hazon in 2000 by organizing and participating in a 3000-mile Cross-USA Jewish Environmental Bike Ride. Participants taught and spoke along the way, ending at the White House where they received a national award from the EPA. This initial event has evolved into three annual bike tours in New York, California, and Israel. And it has led to Hazon's core strategy of providing "transformative experiences for individuals and communities" as a way of creating meaningful and collective change.

Together Hazon and Fair Food Network, Savage and Hesterman have embarked on an exciting partnership to create change. What follows is "A Call to Action for the Jewish Community" that will be launched this summer and at the Hazon Food Conference.. ■

A Call to Action for the Jewish community, from Hazon, in partnership with Fair Food Network

Fair Food Network is excited to be partnering with Hazon on the following three calls to action. You can learn more about all of these issues by reading Oran Hesterman's *Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All. Together,* we can move from being conscious consumers to engaged citizens and transform our food system!

• The first call to action is in your kitchen. Make a commitment to spend an additional $10 per week on food the source of which you can trace and trust. It may be $10 at the farmers' market where you've just had a discussion with the grower; it may be $10 toward a buying club or a CSA. This $10 is not just for you and your satiation. It is a transformative $10 spent with intention, or *kavannah*, toward a fair food system.

• The second call takes place in YOUR Jewish community, whether it be a synagogue, *havura*, Hebrew school or even where you volunteer. Make a commitment to engage the leadership of that institution (maybe it's you!) to view food as a critical issue in the development of your community (because it is). Find one way you can make a change in the way things are done. This may mean exclusively seeking out caterers who source locally for your celebrations, partnering with a farm to provide produce for school lunches, setting up a Sunday Farmers' Market, or laying out an expanded set of kosher guidelines for the types of foods you will serve at your institution's events.

• The third call takes place at the policy level. With discussions around the 2012 Farm Bill beginning soon, it is important to let your elected representatives know that as their constituent, you want THEM to engage with food policy issues. Start by familiarizing yourself with the issues that will be up for discussion. It is too early to make hyper-specific political demands, but it isn't too early to tell your representatives that you want them to be involved. Contact your senators and representatives and ask the following:

"My name is ____ and I want Senator/Representative _____ to know that as a voting constituent, it is important to me that he/she is engaged with issues of access to healthy food and the 2012 Farm Bill. I want him/her to hear my concerns that the Farm Bill safety net include small and mid-size family farmers and that it pay attention to reestablishing a regional food systems infrastructure."

Find out more about Hazon at hazon.org and more about Fair Food Network at fairfoodnetwork.org. Hesterman's book will be in bookstores beginning this month, with more information at fairfoodbook.org

Real Dads: Men Embracing Nonviolence– story told in photos and essays

Dani Meier, special to the WJN

When my grandfather Charlie was 13 years old, his father found Bolshevik pamphlets under his bed. Living in the Ukrainian city of Nikolayev, my great-grandfather knew the fate that befell many Jewish young men in the pre-revolutionary Czarist empire—especially trouble-makers: forced military conscription in the Pale of Settlement. My great-grandfather packed his son's bags and bundled him off to America.

My grandfather landed in Connecticut, eventually brought his entire family from the Ukraine to the United States and rose to prominence in New Haven's Jewish community as the cantor at Congregation B'Nai Jacob for nearly 50 years.

Me, I'm a child of divorce and a divorced father myself, so clearly am more a product of the baby-boom generation than the Depression-era where security and stability were top priorities of family life. Nonetheless, Jewish values—particularly their emphasis on the importance of family—shaped me both personally and professionally. Personally, a longing for family and for familial connection has been with me my entire adult life. Professionally, I became a psychotherapist working with families and couples. And I engaged in prevention work, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault prevention. Towards that end, in 2003, I co-founded the Real M.E.N.'s Project (Men Embracing Nonviolence) a public awareness initiative to redefine real men as those who model nonviolence, strength, and respect for women. The Real M.E.N.'s Project focuses on fathers, grandfathers, and father figures—coaches, educators, clergy, and others—as key allies when they are positive role models for young boys.

After successive public awareness campaigns from 2003–2006, in 2009–2010, I organized a statewide photography competition focusing on fathers' positive influence. The contest gave rise to a powerful photo exhibit displayed at Allegiance Health in Jackson, Michigan. Beneath each image in the exhibit is a pledge, signed by the father in that photograph:

I will not commit, condone, or be silent about domestic violence.

I will teach my children and model healthy, nonviolent relationships.

I will use my words and my actions to convey to all boys and all men in my life:

Real men don't hit.

Real men don't rape.

Dani Meiere, with his son Ezra

Though the exhibit began as a Michigan initiative, support came from as far as Spain and South Africa and I received images from New York, Poland, and Cabo Verde. Our exhibit also inspired an anti-violence Father's Day photo contest in Vermont, hundred of miles away, reminding us that every individual action has ripple effects.

Thanks to a work ethic that idles in overdrive (a legacy of both my Jewish heritage and my Swiss father's influence), I couldn't walk away from the photo exhibit and be satisfied with a job well done. The message was worth spreading.

Hence, the book *Real Dads: Men Embracing Nonviolence*. The book takes the photographs and pushes the message further, incorporating moving essays that depict men who have stepped up or stepped in at critical moments in their children's lives: an adult man writes gratefully about the love his father gave him growing up; a gay man writes about his father's surprising reaction to his coming out; a father writes about learning of his daughter's sexual assault and helping her move on.

Jews, however, are notorious for blind spots to (or denial about) certain issues within our own ranks: alcoholism, for example. And domestic abuse as well. In the 1970s, the Women's Movement raised awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault. But it wasn't till the 1990s that several studies addressed spousal abuse in Jewish families. Rabbi Julie Ringold Spitzer broke ground with her 1995 book, *When Love is Not Enough: Spousal Abuse in Rabbinic and Contemporary Judaism*, in which she exposed domestic violence in Jewish family life. The tradition of *shalom bayit* (peace in the home), she wrote, becomes a burden for abused women who feel they have to maintain a facade. In 1997, the Faith Trust Institute allowed survivors to tell their stories in *To Save a Life: Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Families*. More recently, Rachel Lev, a psychotherapist and herself a victim of childhood sexual abuse by her father, wrote *Shine the Light: Sexual Abuse and Healing in the Jewish Community*. And Toby Landesman's 2004 book *You Are Not Alone: Solace and Inspiration for Domestic Violence Survivors Based on Jewish Wisdom*, offers prayers, blessings and other writings to comfort and support survivors.

Statistics about domestic violence and sexual assault in the U.S. are staggering: one in three women will, in her lifetime, be physically assaulted by an intimate partner and one in six American women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. There's no reason to presume the figures are different in the Jewish community.

The *Real Dads* book was released in May, just in time for Father's Day, an important symbolic holiday for the message that fathers make a difference. The Ann Arbor book release is June 4 at Crazy Wisdom Bookstore (114 South Main Street), 2-3:30 p.m. *Real Dads* is an effort to remind fathers that they can help change the world, one child at a time; By raising sons who are loving, respectful, nonviolent partners and by raising daughters to expect nothing less. ■

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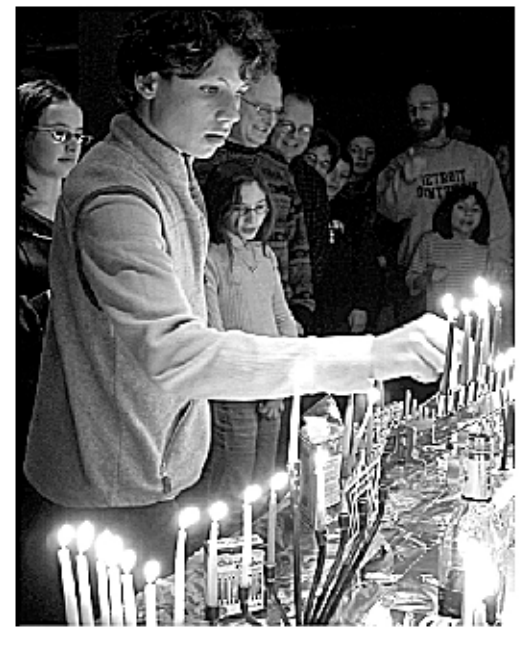

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The picketers' intellectual assumptions examined

Victor Lieberman, special to the WJN

As the weekly picket of Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor by self-styled Jewish Witnesses for Peace and Friends now enters its eighth year, and as politics in the Mideast heat up, it may be a good time to consider the assumptions on which the picketers' eight-year project rests.

To be sure, identifying those assumptions is not easy, insofar as the picketers' chief offerings are five- to ten-word slogans on placards. Nor is there reason to imagine that disproving their claims would in any way lessen their ardor, which derives from an unshakable sense of moral superiority. And yet weighing the charges that picketers levy against Israel remains useful, because such an exercise can provide general insights into a dispute that, unfortunately, seems likely to grow more bitter in the coming months,

I seek not to turn the picketers' heroes into villains and villains into heroes. On the contrary, I reject black-white narratives as a genre. I distinguish between history replete with ambiguities and uncertainties, and history as a tool for political agitation. Only those who embrace the latter type of history are untroubled by complexity or doubt.

Consider, then, four of the picketers' basic claims as evinced in signs and occasional public statements:

1. Israel was born in sin, dependent for its very creation on dispossessing Palestinians, and therefore is morally and legally illegitimate.

It is certainly true that the potential for Arab displacement was built into Zionism, because Zionism by its very nature sought to transform what for many centuries had been an Arab land into a Jewish-dominated state. Such a transformation inevitably engendered bitter resistance from Arabs eager to defend

Henry Herskovitz

their culture and their society against uninvited, unwanted interlopers from Europe. From the late 1930s mounting Arab opposition led prominent Zionists to fear that a Jewish state could never survive amidst a large Arab population.

When fighting broke out in December 1947 after the UN decision to divide the British mandate of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, those Zionist fears were validated, and prompted what can only be described as an increasingly ambitious and deliberate Jewish displacement of Palestinian Arabs. These expulsions (why avoid using a perfectly accurate term?) unfolded in well-documented stages. To March 1948 retaliatory Jewish terrorist attacks against Arab civilians proved deeply demoralizing, but as yet there was no plan of removal, and most who left their homes, perhaps 75,000, sought merely to escape the breakdown in law and order that attended the British departure. However, during the most critical phase of the war, from March to July 1948, the Jewish army's Plan D authorized commanders to clear Arabs from strategic villages and urban districts. Most historians accept that this was the major factor behind the flight of perhaps 300,000 additional Palestinians. They responded to systematic harassment, direct physical expulsion, massacres—of which Deir Yassin was most notorious—and fear of Jewish brutality. Some fled in response to Arab orders to evacuate, but their numbers were small. Finally from July to November 1948, Israeli forces helped to generate another 300,000 or so refugees through continued harassment and direct expulsions. In this phase, when Israel had the upper hand militarily, there was no longer a plausible strategic rationale for Palestinian displacement. Rather, Israel sought to seize Arab property—eventually one in three Israelis lived on such property—and to reduce a hostile or suspect population.

These events constituted the complete, externally imposed collapse of Palestinian Arab society as it had existed for generations. Understandably Palestinians refer to this earthquake as al-Nakba, the Catastrophe.

But to focus exclusively on Arab suffering is to distort the picture, because Jewish claims to world sympathy in general, and to a place in Palestine in particular, proved as compelling as Arab claims. Climaxing decades of ever more ferocious anti-Semitism in central and eastern Europe, the Holocaust confirmed the long-standing Zionist prescription: to gain security and dignity, Jews had to separate from Gentile society and build a state of their own. After 1945 Jews could not and would not return to the lands of their people's near extermination. Nor would the US or Britain admit large numbers. For hundreds of thousands of Jews after World War Two, there simply was no refuge other than Palestine, where, of course, Jews had ancient ties, where Zionists from the early 20th century had developed a thriving community, and where by 1945 Jews already constituted almost a third of the population.

In voting in 1947 to partition Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state, the newly formed United Nations decided that both peoples had legitimate and compelling claims. Neither could be ignored. Division was the only equitable and feasible solution. That historic UN vote, of 33–3 with 10 abstentions, has never been revoked, and along with Israel's current recognition by 154 states, provides a legal foundation for Israeli independence.

After the partition vote, there is every indication that Zionist leaders, notwithstanding their concerns about a large Arab minority, intended to leave the Arab population undisturbed and to extend them full citizenship rights, but to reduce Arab strength through massive Jewish immigration. What altered those plans was the Arab military assault. This started with Palestinian attacks the day after the UN vote—historians of all political persuasions concur that Arabs, not Jews, initiated the violence—and continued with the invasion by five Arab state armies on May 15, 1948, one day after Israel declared its independence. Whereas Jewish leaders were content to remain indefinitely within the borders allocated by the UN, Arabs were determined to reverse partition by force of arms. Plan D arose in response to the impending collapse of key Jewish positions, including West Jerusalem, at the hands of Palestinian forces, and in anticipation of yet more serious assaults from Arab state armies. Absent these Arab attacks, there would have been no Arab expulsions.

Mozhgan Savabiesfahini

Moreover, lest one imagine that Jewish ethnic cleansing contrasted with an Arab policy of ethnic inclusion, consider that whereas Israeli actions remained uneven and inconsistent—as a result, over 150,000 Arabs, some 18 percent of the original population, remained in Israel after 1948—Arab forces expelled every Jew they encountered. In the process, they perpetrated at least two massacres whose scale and brutality equaled Deir Yassin. That more Jews were not expelled reflected lack not of intention, but opportunity, a function of military weakness.

Indeed, the liberal Western version of nationalism that is embodied in Israeli law and that accords ethnic minorities equal political rights, had at that time little or no support in the Arab world, as evidenced by Jordan's refusal to let Jews become citizens, and more particularly by the massive expulsion and flight of Jews from across the Arab world after 1947. In direct response to events in Palestine, Arab nationalists subjected centuries-old local Jewish communities to boycotts, arrests, anti-Semitic legislation, and mob violence. In response, and in the hope of a better life in Israel, over 600,000 Arab Jews abandoned their homes between 1947 and 1967. Admittedly, more Jews left their homes voluntarily than did Palestinians. On the other hand, whereas Jews had a legitimate security justification for expulsion, Arabs outside Palestine had none; and whereas some 82 percent of Palestinians left their homes, 95 percent of Arab Jews did so. But in a broader sense, the two displacements were similar in size, in the value of forfeited property, and in the trauma that both populations endured.

In essence, therefore, the Mideast saw a double displacement, as ethnically exclusive Jewish and Arab nationalisms became joint heirs to the more tolerant, polyethnic imperial traditions of the Ottomans and the British. As such, Palestinian and Jewish displacements paralleled the forced exchange of Greeks and Turks after the Ottoman empire collapsed in 1923, or the exchange of Hindus and Muslims in India, or Poles and Germans in Europe, at the end of World War Two.

UN General Assembly Resolution 194, in December 1948, called for the return in Palestine of all refugees "willing to live at peace with their neighbors." Because Arabs had initiated the violence, and because Arabs refused to recognize the Jewish state, Israel denied that Arab refugees met the criteria of 194. That resolution, moreover, said nothing about descendants inheriting a right of return from their ancestors.

In sum, Israel's early viability not only benefited from, but in some basic sense depended upon, the displacement of Palestinians from their historic homeland. Although Palestinians had no direct responsibility for the Holocaust, in effect they, not Europeans, were forced to pay the price. But if Jews scattered the Palestinians before them, anti-Semitism drove the Jews, and their desperation, their need for a secure refuge, were at least as compelling as Palestinian distress. This was precisely how the world community judged the issue in 1947—and continues to judge it today, in its demand for two states for two peoples. That Palestinians refused to accept what they saw as the theft of over half of their patrimony is perfectly understandable. But the fact remains that had they and the Arab states not sought to reverse the UN partition through violence, there would have been no refugees, and a Palestinian state – which still not has arisen – would have become a reality in 1947.

Marcia Federbush

2. Israel is a racist state.

The current commander of the Israeli navy is Chinese. Israel has 120,000 black African Jews and 60,000 East Indian Jews. Thousands of American converts, including over 400 African-Americans, now live in Israel, as do 800 Jewish Peruvian Indians. Perhaps half

Continued on page 37

To sleep or not to sleep the night of Shavuot

Rabbi Ahron Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Midrash tells us that the Jewish people went to sleep on the night of Shavuot. And it says that the night of Shavuot was a very sweet sleep, a very peaceful sleep. In the morning when Hashem came to give the Torah no one was there, they were still sleeping in their tents. Moses had to go around to all the tents and wake them up. This is what the prophet Isaiah was referring to when he said "Why did I come and there was no one there?" in reference to Hashem's arrival at Mount Sinai. In order to correct the error of our ancestors, we now have the custom of staying up all night before Shavuot and studying Torah.

All stories in the Torah are supposed to be a lesson to us in our service to Hashem. What is the lesson we are supposed to learn from this one, especially since it seems to speak unfavorably about us?

When the Jews left Egypt they were told that in 50 days they would be given the Torah directly from Hashem. Can you imagine what excitement they must have felt as the momentous day came closer and closer? Additionally, when they left Egypt they were at the 49th level of spiritual defilement. Each day out of Egypt they elevated and refined themselves spiritually until the night before the giving of the Torah they were in a high state of spiritual awareness. Both of the above examples lead us to the conclusion that the Jewish people should have been in a heightened state of excitement on the night before the creator of the universe, the one who recently redeemed them from Egypt with so many miracles was to appear directly before them. So why did they go into such a sleep that they weren't even awake in the morning when Hashem came to give them the Torah?

We must conclude that their slumber was not in any way reflective of a lack of excitement or enthusiasm about the Torah. But rather, it is taught that this was a deliberate act, done with the intention of better receiving the Torah. This is supported by the fact that Hashem protected them from insect bites and otherwise being disturbed during this particular sleep, indicating to us that there was some positive reason, or at least they thought there was, for going to sleep at this particular time.

The Alter Rebbe, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, writes in the Tanya that when the soul was in the heavenly realm, before being attached to a physical body, it was able to bask in Hashem's glory in a very intense, direct way. In our world, the soul has the demands and restrictions and distractions of physicality greatly reducing the ability to experience the grandeur and glory of Hashem's presence. Nevertheless, even when the soul is in the body there is a special experience that we can have when we go to sleep. When we are asleep the soul is able to leave the body and travel to the heavenly realms. Our sages tell us that sleep is one-sixtieth of death. The soul can partially leave the body while still remaining attached to the body. This sleep state allows the soul much more freedom than the normal waking state when it is fully engaged in the demands of the physical world. This is the key to the answer of the question of why the Jewish people went to sleep on the eve of receiving the Torah. They thought that if they were asleep their souls would be able to experience the revelation of Hashem from the spiritual dimension in a much more direct, meaningful and less limited way than the restricted, more limited ability of the soul in the waking state.

We stay awake to show that to accept Torah in our lives, we need to be awake and engaged in the physical world rather than "asleep" disengaged from physicality.

The Midrash tells us that after counting the forty-nine days from leaving Egypt, the Jews were in such a high state of spiritual refinement that they felt they could receive the Torah from Hashem directly from heaven without the encumbrance and restrictions of physicality.

However, Hashem was not satisfied with their conduct. The way to prepare to receive the Torah is not that the soul has to leave the body. On the contrary, the soul should be fully engaged in the body. A central theme in Tanya and other Chassidic literature, is that the whole purpose of the giving of the Torah is to make a dwelling place for Hashem in this physical world—our Earth. The purpose is to take the physical world and make it into a holy place. This was the main purpose of giving the Torah. The Jewish people knew the Torah before it was given but at that level it didn't fully affect the world. The world still wasn't able to be refined. This only happened after the Torah was given. That is, Hashem came down to Earth on Mount Sinai and caused the world to be refined.

Actually, the only way we can reach the highest levels of Hashem is to make a dwelling place for Him on Earth. The Talmud tells us that Hashem will abide by the ruling of the Earthly court because that was his plan – that we should live by the Torah laws in the physical realm. God put our bodies in a physical world and planted the soul in the physical body. He wants us to do our spiritual work in and with the physical world. Therefore, the preparations to receive the Torah were to be in the physical realm, awake and engaged in our physicality – not asleep in a purely spiritual realm disengaged from physicality. This is the reason we have the custom today of staying awake and studying Torah on the night preceding Shavuot. To show that to prepare to accept Torah in our lives, we need to be awake and engaged in the physical world rather than "asleep" disengaged from physicality.

So what is the lesson? A person might say, " Why do I have to deal with the physical world? I would rather lock myself away in a spiritual surrounding, study Torah all the time, and only deal with the physical world in the most minimal way possible." We answer that question by seeing that the purpose of Torah is to work with and in the world. Rabbi Yitzchok Luriya known as the Ari Zal and the founder of the Kabbalistic movement said that at the giving of the Torah Hashem could have chosen to bring all the souls up to Heaven and given it there in a direct, spiritual revelation. But He chose to come down and give it to us in a physical form here in the physical world. By staying awake all night before Shavuot we show that we want our bodies to be involved in the receiving of Torah into our lives. If we make the world pure enough through our Torah-true actions, we can hasten the coming of Moshiach. May it be speedily in our days. ■

How to make our lives holy

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

During this year, my column in the WJN has focused on questions I have been asked in my "Ask the Rabbi" section on our synagogue website. However, for this, the final column in this series, I will address a question that I was asked in a different venue.

Rabbi Dobrusin

I have been an active member of the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County since its inception. The Round Table brings together clergy and lay people from different religious faiths to engage in interfaith dialogue and to address shared community concerns, and I am proud of my involvement with this organization. During this spring, we have been discussing some basic questions concerning our religious faiths and one week the question was asked: "What problem does your religious faith address? What negative situation is it confronting in the hope of improvement?"

I thought about that question for quite a while before I offered my answer. I thought for a while because, truthfully, I believe that some Jews would say that our faith is not intended to address a situation in the world that needs improvement. Rather, they might say that Judaism is simply a matter of continuing our covenant with God and observing the mitzvot, the commandments, for their own sake.

But, I would take issue with that approach and believe that we need to see a purpose behind that which we do. Even if we don't see the connection between each individual mitzvah we observe and that larger purpose, we have to be able to see the big picture and ask how our lives, and the lives of those around us and the world in general, are improved in some way by that which we do.

For me, Judaism does intend to address a "problem" in the world. That problem is the gap between the reality of our lives and the potential each of us has, as human beings created in God's image, to live a life of greater holiness and meaning. How one defines "holiness" is subjective and personal, but I believe that Judaism's overall goal is to encourage us to separate ourselves from the animals and other creations. Judaism asks of us that, in the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel, we make of our lives a work of art. We are commanded to use our sense of right and wrong, our sensitivity, our compassion, our capacity for wisdom, to imbue our lives with importance and purpose. We do this not by removing ourselves from the world but by immersing ourselves even more deeply in it to celebrate and enjoy in responsible ways the blessings of our lives, and by allowing and helping others do the same.

We are commanded to use our sense of right and wrong, our sensitivity, our compassion, our capacity for wisdom, to imbue our lives with importance and purpose.

Judaism does not ask us to remove ourselves from the world and live an ascetic, contemplative life of prayer and ritual. It asks us to use our rituals, our traditions and the wise teachings of our sages—ancient and contemporary—to guide us as we move through this world and conduct the relationships that are so much a part of life.

Our faith teaches us that everything we do can be touched with holiness: the way we conduct our relationship with our partner, raise our children, run our businesses, give to those in need, love the animals with whom we share our home (currently the count of such animals in our house is 6), make decisions about current events, and address all of the other aspects of our lives.

One of the most serious misconceptions people have about Judaism is that it is a faith lived inside synagogues and study halls, one which mandates specific ritual behavior merely for the purpose of identifying ourselves as Jews. There is much more to our faith than that. It is when we use what we have learned in those synagogues and study halls, and the traditions which have been passed down to us to guide our daily lives, that Judaism fulfills its purpose: to elevate and sanctify our lives and to help move the world closer to redemption. ■

Beth Israel Congregation summer activities

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

T Shirt and Eco Shabbat

Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m.

Participants are encouraged to wear T shirts at this Shabbat morning service. Especially encouraged are camp, school/university, and vacation designs. Sam Zwetchkenbaum will present a dvar torah on "Conservation, Healthy Environmental Living, the Faith & Food Program and the Beth Israel Gardens Program." At the Kiddush, extra efforts are made to provide organic and/or locally produced foods. Besides the reusable dishes, silverware, and tablecloths, the "disposable" paper products are all created from 100% post consumer products, and are biodegradable and compostable. This Shabbat is cosponsored by the Social Action Committee.

Erev Shavuot (The Feast of Weeks Eve) - Celebrating the gift of Torah

The Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study "LaBriut: Judaism and Health" will begin Tuesday, June 7 at 8 p.m. There will be a variety of opportunities to study both traditional texts and modern views of this important topic. Study sessions will continue through the evening, going to midnight, in accordance with the tradition that Jews are so eager to receive the Torah anew that they stay up the night before in anticipation of this holiday. The evening will also include a maariv service at approximately 9 p.m. All are welcome to attend this evening in its entirety, or to come to parts of it;

Should I Be Tested? A Look at Genetic Tests Currently Offered in the Clinic and by Internet will be presented by Wendy R. Uhlmann, MS, CGC. Since the completion of the Human Genome Project, there are an increasing number of genetic tests available. It is even possible to now order genetic tests over the Internet. Jewish individuals have long known that there are conditions that occur more commonly in the Jewish population. This presentation will provide a global overview of genetic testing—what is available in the clinic and by the Internet, how these tests significantly differ, benefits and limitations of genetic testing and factors to consider prior to testing.

A Discussion with Physicians will include the following topics: Do Jewish values and experiences influence young Jews to choose to become doctors? What affects does Jewish life have on young doctors in their practice? These questions and others will be posed to a panel of young doctors from the Ann Arbor community. The doctors will also reflect on traditional Jewish texts on health and discuss if and how they are relevant today.

Study sessions will be held throughout the evening of Shavuot. There will be opportunities for smaller group study, including a discussion on current issues in health care and a study of traditional healing prayers. Visit the Beth Israel website at www.bethisrael-aa.org for a full list of offerings on this evening.

A summer evening fundraiser in honor of Ron and Lonnie Sussman

Sunday, June 12, 7–10 p.m.

This event will include a summery outdoor courtyard reception, dancing with DJ Neil Alexander, and teen performances marking the many years of service that Ron and Lonnie Sussman have devoted to the community. There will also be a raffle of a piece of stained glass art created by Ron.

Shavuot morning services

Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 9 at 9:30 a.m.

On the first day of Shavuot, the Ten Commandments are read, and the service will be followed by a lunch and learn study session. On the second day selections from the book of Ruth will be chanted during the morning service, and there will be a Yizkor (memorial) service starting about 11 a.m.

Annual congregation meeting

Sunday, June 26, 7 p.m.

Beth Israel's Annual Congregation Meeting includes a dessert reception. There will be a presentation by students who participated in the Alternative Spring Break program to Baltimore with Jewish Funds for Justice. These teens are eager to share their experiences building a butterfly garden for an impoverished school community. They will discuss the impact of the program, as well as their plans for engaging in social action initiatives in the local community in the year to come. This event includes the elections of new members and officers of the Beth Israel Board for the 2011–2012 fiscal year, and their installation, and the presentation of Honorable Menschen Awards to volunteers who have made a difference over the past year. The agenda for the meeting includes the approval of the budget for the 2011–2012 fiscal year.

Men's Club Mets/Tigers Baseball Game

Tuesday, June 28, 7:05 p.m.

The Men's Club of Beth Israel will go as a group to a Tigers game at Comerica Park. Tickets are $34 per person. Contact Haran Rashes at haran@umich.edu, or Jake Kander at programs@bethisrael-aa.org for further information.

The Men's Club is also forming a Running Club, open to men and women, all levels of experience and distances. Contact Bob Carbeck at rcarbeck@gmail.com for further information.

Barbecue and Barchu

Friday, July 1, 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service

In honor of the 4th of July weekend, Beth Israel offers a "Barbecue and Barchu"—a grilled hamburger and hot dog dinner followed by an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service. There is a fee, and the deadline for reservations is June 29 at 9:00 a.m. Call the office for reservations, and after that date check to see if more people can be accommodated. Payment is accepted at the door.

Shabbat in the Park

Friday, August 5, 6 p.m. at the County Farm Park

Participants experience an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service in a natural environment, located near the Beth Israel Garden. The service is followed by a dairy potluck Shabbat Dinner, which includes produce from the Beth Israel garden as well. The County Farm Park is located at the southwest corner of Washtenaw and Platt

Shira Hadasha Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, July 29, 6:30 p.m.

This service features the melodies of the Shira Hadasha congregation in Jerusalem, most of which were written by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. A group of volunteers has been meeting to learn the melodies, of which 90% are not sung currently at Beth Israel. The June singing session takes place on Monday, June 20 at 8:00 p.m.for anyone who would like to learn the melodies. The service is characterized by a lot of communal singing, including many of the parts traditionally done by the shaliach tzibbur, the service leader. The service and singing session are open to anyone in the community, and CD's are available at no charge to those people who wish to familiarize themselves with the music.

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Friday, August 12, 6 p.m. hors d'ouevres, 6:30 p.m. service, 7:30 p.m. dessert Oneg

This annual Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service honors the memory of Joey Newhouse, and is held in the Sanctuary. The service includes new and old melodies led by Joey's mother Ruth who plays the piano during the early part of the service. This event is underwritten by the Joseph Newhouse Beth Israel Musical Enhancement Fund.

Summer Tot Shabbat

Throughout the summer tots and their parents or special friends are invited to share a Shabbat celebration just for them. These interactive Tot Shabbat services are filled with songs, stories and exciting Jewish learning. During the summer Tot Shabbat is held twice a month, at 11:15 a.m. on the second Saturday and fourth Saturday of the month: June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, and August 13 and 27. Each Tot Shabbat service is led by Peretz Hirshbein or Jessica Kander. Peretz Hirshbein is the Early Childhood Assistant Director at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for education on the Beth Israel Board of Directors. Jessica De Young Kander is a graduate of the School of Education at the University of Michigan and former preschool teacher. She currently teaches at Eastern Michigan University where she is completing a master's degree in children's literature and a certificate in the teaching of writing.

Tisha B'Av

August 8–9

Services for the holiday on the 9th of Av, which marks the destruction of the first and second temples and other tragedies which have occurred in Jewish history, will take place on Monday, August 8, at 9 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 9 at 8 a.m. Both services include the chanting of Megillat Eicha, the Book of Lamentations. A mincha service at 2:30 p.m. on August 9 includes the special Torah and haftarah readings for the holiday.

The Beth Israel gardens

For the fifth year in a row Beth Israel maintains a garden at County Farm Park in Ann Arbor at Platt and Washtenaw. The garden is a part of Project Grow. The garden supplies flowers and vegetables for summer onegs, and local food banks. Approximately half of the produce is donated to Food Gatherers. Everyone in the community can experience the joy of agriculture by visiting the garden or volunteering to work with a friendly group of people. Prior experience not required! Contact Sam Zwetchkenbaum at szwetch@umich.edu or 717-6046 for more information or to volunteer.

Summer services

Daily and Shabbat services continue all summer long; on Saturdays at 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and on Fridays evenings, generally at 6 p.m. Hours may vary on Friday evening. Check the Beth Israel calendar at www.bethisrael-aa.og at 6 p.m.

Beth Israel Family Fun Fair

Sunday, September 4, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Fun Fair offers enjoyable activities including a Bounce House, Cupcake Walk, Caricature Artist, Lawn Games, Traditional Lawn Relays, Arts and Crafts and Face-painting, with a kosher hot dog lunch , sno cones and more. There is a charge for the hot dog lunch, but all other activities and the snow cones are free.

Complimentary Tickets for High Holidays for Newcomers, Graduate Students and first and second year Medical Residents, and Special Dues for Those 35 and Under

Individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County since last Yom Kippur, may request High Holiday tickets at no charge as Beth Israel's way of welcoming them into the local Jewish community. Graduate students and First and Second Year Residents with I.D.s may also request free individual tickets. Request forms must be submitted before the holidays, as no tickets can be provided immediately prior to any service.

People who are age 35 or younger may become members at a special rate of $300 for the whole family for their first year of membership (plus USCJ dues assessment of $34.75).

Tickets for the High Holidays are provided free of charge to all members of Beth Israel in good standing. Non members may purchase tickets for the High Holiday Services, although no tickets are required for the Rosh Hashanah Family Celebration for Young Children and the K–5 Family Program on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah. Those interested in further information are asked to call the synagogue office at 665-9897.

Open enrollment for Beth Israel Religious School

Parents may register their children for Beth Israel Religious School throughout the summer. Beth Israel offers educational programs for children in kindergarten through eighth grade, and paid leadership and Jewish educational enrichment for 9th–12th graders. In the elementary grades, students learn the skills to enable them to live a traditional Jewish lifestyle in the contemporary world. Throughout their studies, they are engaged in learning Jewish thought and history, and in examining the conceptual basis of Jewish beliefs. In Hebrew education, the students develop Hebrew reading skills and siddur literacy. During the middle school years, the continuing students use the language skills they have learned and begin a formal study of conversational Hebrew. Separate Hebrew immersion and advanced text study classes are offered to Hebrew Day School graduates or other qualified students with similar backgrounds. (The immersion classes are offered to both members and non members).

All Beth Israel events open to non-members

All Beth Israel events are open to the general community, and many are offered at no cost. Call 665-9897 for additional information about the summer events. ■

Additional summer events will be posted on Beth Israelís website ñwww.bethisrael-aa.org.

Summer at Temple Beth Emeth

Brett Willner, special to the WJN

Shabbat services for young families

TBE will continue its weekly shabbat schedule for young families through the month of June. Every Friday, Tot Shabbat is at 5:30 p.m. and it followed by at dinner from 6-6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., families may choose to attend the shira song session, or the sukkat shalom service for lower elementary age students. Both groups have a popsicle oneg shabbat at 7 p.m. During July and August weekly tot shabbat and dinner will continue. Shira and Sukkat Shalom will resume after Labor Day Weekend.

Summer Shabbat Services

In a long-standing tradition, TBE 7:30 p.m. services in July and August are conducted by rotating lay-leaders. Services are informal, a little shorter, and may have a short discussion of the portion of the week rather than a Torah reading. An oneg shabbat follows. Prospective members are invited to attend any time; however, a special service of welcome is planned for Friday, September 9. There are no Saturday morning services in July or August. See the TBE website for the weekly service schedule and other information, www.templebethemeth.org.

Confirmation of the Class of 2010

Friday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m., the Confirmation Class will lead the service that they have written. The class has spent the semester discussing the service and creating one of their own. Confirmation families are sponsoring the oneg shabbat. The community is invited to share in this celebration.

Spirituality Book Club

Thursday, June 2, noon-1:30 p.m.

In the final meeting of the Spirituality Book Club the group will study: The Best Spiritual Writing 2010, edited by Philip Zaleski. Contact Cantor Rose, cantorannie@gmail.com, with questions.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Sundays, June 5, July 17 and August 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join Eli Avny and Jewish Hikers of Michigan this summer on a special hike each month. Sunday, June 5, meet at Argo Park in North Ann Arbor. Locations for the later hikes have not yet been determined, but will be listed on the TBE website.

These hikes, which are opened to the community, are full of beautiful nature reserves, social interaction, and light physical activity. Hikes are open to all ages, with no experience necessary. Bring water and snacks if desired. Hikes last between 1-1/2 to 2 hours and are not physically demanding. No pets, please.

For more information or to be added to Jewish Hikers of Michigan's email list, contact Eli Avny, 883-9522 or jewish.hikers@gmail.com, or Brett Willner, 665-4744 or bwillner@templebethemeth.org.

Women's Torah Study

Mondays, June 6 and 20, July 18, August 1 and 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

The first and third Mondays of this month, Cantor Annie Rose will lead a Women's Torah Study at Temple Beth Emeth. Using The Women of Reform Judaism Women's Commentary the Women's Torah group will be studying Beha-a lot'cha in June.

On July 18, the portion will be Matot, and the portions for August are D'varim and Eikev.

Tikkun Leil Shauvot: a learning session on the Internet and Halacha

Tuesday, June 7, 8-10 p.m.

TBE members and the Ann Arbor Jewish community are welcome to join in a night of study leading up to Shavuot. Shavuot is the celebration of receiving the Torah from Mount Sinai. Today, a great deal of information is found on Google, not from the Torah like it used to. This session will explore ways in which individuals express themselves on the internet, how email affects relationships, and how information is spread and what Judaism has to say about it. In preparation for this session, participants should read, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" from theatlantic.com. For more information visit www.templebethemeth.org.

Shavuot Yiskor Service

Wednesday, June 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The last day of Shavuot will be observed with a service followed by a light lunch. The names of those who have died in the past year will be read before the kaddish.

Torah on Tap

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m.

Young Jewish Adults join us for the first informal meeting of Torah on Tap at The Earle, 121 West Washington Street. Study Torah and Drink a Brew! Rabbi Lisa Delson from Temple Beth Emeth will be this month's Rabbi. RSVP to Brett Willner, bwillner@templebethemeth.org.

Torah on Tap is an informal group that was setup through J-HUB, the central hub for Young Adult Jewish happenings in Ann Arbor. For more informal group meet-ups and a community wide calendar for Young Adult Jewish life in Ann Arbor visit www.groupspaces.com/jhub.

TNT Canoeing on the Huron River

Saturday, June 25, 3–6:30 p.m.

Twenties and Thirties we will be hitting the 'rushing' waters of the Huron River. Plans are to meet at Argo Canoe Livery, 1055 Longshore Drive, and canoe to Gallup Canoe Livery. After spending a couple of hours on the river, the group will head to Dominick's, 812 Monroe Street, to relax. The cost is $12 per person. To RSVP, email Alexis Antracoli, aantracoli@gmail.com, by June 21. To pay advance visit http://secure.templebethemeth.org.

Summer Shabbaton with Shefa Gold

Friday–Sunday, August 26–28

This August, TBE will host Rabbi Shefa Gold for a weekend of learning and spiritual renewal before the High Holy Days. Shefa Gold is a leader in the Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal and is a Reconstructionist Rabbi. The topic for the weekend will be "Devastation to Renewal: Mysteries of Elul," focusing on the Haftorot from Isaiah. The community is welcome to attend Friday night services at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday morning Torah study and minyan led by Rabbi Gold in her unique prayer-leading style beginning at 10 a.m. More details to come on the TBE website. ■

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JCS offers welcoming community and dynamic school experience

Jill Oserowsky Stanevich, special to the WJN

As someone who has explored various communities throughout this country and abroad, I find that Ann Arbor offers a thriving diversity of Jewish cultural life. A fairly secular Jew in an interfaith relationship (my partner is an agnostic, who has always welcomed the fact that I feel it's important for our children have a healthy Jewish identity), I have continually found congregations opening hearts and doors to families like ours.

At this time our sons are enrolled in the Jewish Cultural Society's religious school that meets each Sunday at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The JCS has been an active member of Washtenaw County Jewish life since the 1960s. Currently led by *Madrikha* Julie Gales, a native Michigander with progressive roots, the JCS offers its members and guests a chance to act out Jewish principles in a secular context while maintaining a connection to the larger, worldwide community.

The JCS school offers a dynamic experience for students grades K-12. The outgoing school principal, Deborah Rubyan, has helped create a welcoming environment for everyone. Enthusiastic teachers present a rich curriculum filled with Jewish history, philosophy and culture including a focus on Shabbat and Jewish holiday observances while nurturing each individual child's connection to *tikkun olam,* repairing the world. Classes are engaging as students in every grade level participate in lively discussions and fun activities. The two-year b'nai mitzvah program focuses on connecting young people to their family history, community, and the larger world through social action.

This past year our sixth-grader and his classmates have studied various Jewish-themed texts and have volunteered at Food Gatherers, Alpha House (Interfaith Hospitality Network), and other Ann Arbor organizations. They participated in the Great Purim Parcel Project, traveled to the Holocaust Memorial in Farmington Hills, and have worked as a team to make matzah balls and help cater the annual community-wide JCS Passover Second Seder, this year attended by nearly 100 people.

These 11 and 12-year-olds of various interests and developmental ages, recently gave talks reflecting on what the volunteer experiences meant to them; this was in preparation for a longer, on-going service project culminating around the time of each student's bar/bat mitzvahs. In addition, each of these young people will be interviewing a family member about their ancestry and how that connects them to the larger Jewish community.

They and the rest of the younger and older students have gathered throughout the year at festival times to make crafts, join in potluck dinners, sing songs and put on plays for the larger community. Teens serve as leaders, interacting with younger students while also participating in a peer managed group facilitated by Madeleine Levey-Lambert; for the past two years they have helped in classrooms, participated in weekly study discussions, organized community service activities for themselves and the larger JCS community, and assisted at JCS events.

A person of diverse heritage, I give thanks for forums encouraging open-minded conversation and interconnectedness of purpose. The JCS is one such community. Whether one is spiritual or secular the Jewish Cultural Society of Ann Arbor welcomes everyone. The JCS welcomes new members and their families, or guests wishing to visit, and has ongoing first Friday Shabbat dinners throughout the summer. For more information about the meaningful opportunities available for families visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org or call the JCS office at 975-9872. ■

JCC/ECC Grandparents/Special Friend Shabbat Luncheon set for June 3

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

On Friday, June 3, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor Early Childhood Center will celebrate its ninth annual Grandparents/Special Friend Shabbat. Each year one Shabbat is set aside and children are encouraged to invite their grandparents, or a special adult friend to attend. Guests are welcomed into the ECC to join the children as they prepare for and celebrate the arrival of Shabbat.

Eliana Adler with her mother, Sara, and grandmother, Roberta Seider, during last year's celebration

Grandparents and "special friends" are invited to join the ECC children in their classrooms at 11 a.m. as they prepare for the coming of Shabbat. At 11:30 a.m., the children and their guests will move to the Newman lounge, where ECC song leader Brett Levy will lead the children in song while they sing everyone's Shabbat favorites. After the children greet Shabbat, the children and their guests will dine together.

"Tot Shabbat" families will be included in the celebration, and all children are encouraged to bring grandparents or other "special friends" as their guests. The ECC looks forward to celebrating Shabbat with the children, their parents, grandparents, and special friends as they rejoice in this year's many accomplishments.

For more information, contact Noreen De Young at noreendeyoung@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

TBE Mitzvah Day with SOS Community Services

Brett Willner, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth celebrated Mitzvah Day 2011 on April 30. Over 150 TBE volunteers worked at three of SOS Community Services locations throughout Ypsilanti. SOS is a community based organization whose main goal is to fight homelessness in Washtenaw County by providing services including a food bank, toiletry needs, childcare services, affordable rent, job training and more for those in need.

Mother and daughter planting a garden

Saturday, April 30, ended up with the perfect weather for TBE's 14th Annual Mitzvah Day. Projects included beautifying the front landscape, planting a vegetable garden for SOS' Food Bank, and rebuilding an old ramp at the SOS Crisis Center. TBE's Brotherhood and Rabbi Lisa Delson helped remove old wallpaper and repainted at the SOS Administration Building. Parents and children helped clean toys, organize storage closets at the SOS Childcare Center, detailed the vans and buses SOS uses for transportation, and made Mother's Day baskets and birthday boxes for SOS clients. Additionally, TBE's Religious School held a toiletry drive to donate items to SOS. Other volunteers helped with registration, t-shirt sales, and preparing and serving lunch to all of the volunteers.

Eastern Michigan University's College of Business was used as Mitzvah Day's central location for registration, lunch, and Shabbat services. EMU's COB was gracious in letting TBE use their facilities as their building manager stated, "[EMU COB] is more than willing to help out with any project to help benefit the local Ypsilanti Community."

Ramp building at SOS

This was Temple Beth Emeth's 14th Annual Mitzvah Day. Last year, the day was spent fixing up houses and landscaping with Habitat for Humanity and the year prior TBE partnered with the Interfaith Hospitality Network's Alpha House. *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world… both an ongoing responsibility and an annual event at TBE.

Temple Beth Emeth would like to thank all of the volunteers, co-chairs Marty Ludington and Deb Schild, the Mitzvah Day planning committee, the project captains, and the TBE staff that made Mitzvah Day 2011 a success. ■

Jewish atheists look for their place in Jewish life

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Jeff Levine has spent 40 years searching for a God he can believe in. He's finally given up—but he's not giving up on Judaism.

"I did a lot of studying, and I realized about a year ago that it's OK to say I'm a Jew— I like everything it stands for, but I don't like the concept of believing in a deity," said Levine, 55, a member of a Reform congregation in Los Angeles for the past 25 years.

Levine doesn't want to abandon religion. While he's looking into Humanistic Judaism, a stream that disavows divine power, he's not sure that's the answer, either. "I have a need for the community, I have a strong Jewish identity, I want inspiration as a Jew, but I can't believe what I can't believe," he said.

"And," Levine told JTA, "there's a huge community of people that feels the same way."

A new study spearheaded by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) in Los Angeles is aiming to find out just how many non-believing Jews are out there seeking a way into spiritual life, and what the Jewish community should, or should not do, to accommodate them.

"There's an unvocalized tension at the core of synagogue services," says Rachel Cowan, the institute's executive director, who says she meets many Jews looking for spiritual connection without God. "The rabbi speaks about God and nobody really knows what that means. It's not sophisticated, it's not developed."

Judaism does not require belief in God as a condition of membership. It's a paradox with which many theologians and practitioners struggle. "Judaism teaches us that it's less about God hearing our prayers then about what we do when we walk out the door," says Cantor Nathan Lam of the Stephen S. Wise Temple, a large Reform congregation in Los Angeles, who used to run a "doubters' minyan" for students at the temple's Milken Community High School.

Maintaining an internal balance between the demands of faith and intellect is part of being a modern Jew, he says. Judaism recognizes that by focusing on the need to perform rituals rather than by looking into the practitioner's heart, he says. Other Jewish views hold that belief in the heart is required in performing the Torah's commandments.

"I teach [that] even if you don't believe in God, act as if you do," Lam says.

Self-described Jewish atheists and doubters often focus on the words in the prayer book, typically the only part of the Jewish faith they encounter. They bristle at the constant praising of a God they doubt exists and believe isn't as involved in people's lives as the prayers suggest.

"I think a lot of people stop praying with a congregation because they can't make the words mean anything in their lives," says Cantor Ellen Dreskin of Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester in Chappaqua, N.Y., who says she interprets the words in the prayer book "metaphorically and poetically," not literally.

She says her fellow clergy need to give their congregants permission to do the same.

"People say, I don't believe God makes the sun set every night, and they stop going to services. No one has told them that they're allowed to grow and develop in their spiritual selves," Dreskin says. That cognitive dissonance is what motivated a Midwestern Jewish donor to fund the Institute for Jewish Spirituality study.

The donor, who requested anonymity, said he grew up "hating Judaism," although he is now very involved in the Jewish Humanist movement and has served on the board of his local Jewish federation. Like Levine, he believes there are many more like him, just as deeply involved in Jewish communal life, and it's time for them to go public.

"There are a ton of Jews—maybe half, maybe less—who are secular in my book," the donor told JTA. "They are in mainstream Jewish organizations—the federations, the synagogues—but no one talks about it in the Jewish public sphere." The study, which will be conducted by Diane Schuster, a researcher and lecturer at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, will interview Jews who are "in search of a spiritual experience that is deep, meaningful and transformative but that is not linked to religious liturgies or practices that rely on God language or reference to a Supreme Being."

The results will be used by the institute to develop retreats for "Jewish doubters," as well as training programs "for clergy who work with the doubter population," Schuster explains.

The New York-based Jewish Outreach Institute also is reaching out to what it sees as growing numbers of active Jews who don't believe in a Higher Power. Its national conference in late May will feature a session on how to engage Judaism without God.

"There is a recognition that some people find spiritual sustenance and nurturing through the intellect that is not necessarily tied to anything related to the Divine—that is, to God," said Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, the institute's executive director. "We wanted to include this session both to recognize those who access Judaism in this regard and to affirm it as a vehicle for doing so." Dreskin is one of several Jewish clergy and educators who suggest that new language may be needed for Jewish prayers to take modern sensibilities into account.

"If there were a need for it in my synagogue, we'd do it," says Lam of Stephen S. Wise, who adds that he's not heard such a demand articulated by his congregants.

Other Jewish clergy don't see the need for such liturgical tweaking. Rabbi David Wolpe of Sinai Temple, a large Conservative congregation in Los Angeles, says he has "no doubt" that many people in his synagogue say the prayers without believing in God. Even the Bible admonishes against idolatry, but not against atheism, he points out. "But I'm not eager to make accommodations to create a Judaism absent God," he said. "I think it would be not only not necessary but inadvisable."

Some Reconstructionist congregations have changed their God-language, and others even have completely removed references to God, says Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

"There may have been some who experimented with it, but I don't know if it's become a regular service," he said. "My objection wouldn't be that they have expunged reference to God. My problem would be if they did not allow people to hold a deistic viewpoint."

That seems to have been the main objection of Reform leaders in 1991 when they rejected Congregation Beth Adam's bid for membership in what was then the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the Union for Reform Judaism).

In rejecting the Cincinnati congregation's application, Reform leaders opined that while individual Jews may not believe in God, a Reform synagogue may not declare such a position. Rabbi Robert Barr, the longtime spiritual leader of Beth Adam, says the rejection was politically motivated and did not involve the "deep religious conversation" that he says needs to take place. "The Jewish conversation

continued on page 37

JCC/ECC Kangaroo Room project benefits Humane Society

Natalie Wiesend, special to the WJN

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) received a gift from the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center Kangaroo Room just in time for spring. The Kangaroo Room raised $266 and bought items to support the care of animals in the Ann Arbor area.

Early in the school year, the Kangaroo children were very interested in pet-type animals such as cats, dogs, hamsters and fish. Teacher Nancy Witter said, "The High/Scope curriculum, which is implemented at the JCC-ECC includes caring for animals as one of its key developmental experiences. The classroom has a pet hamster and fish in an aquarium. Children can choose to be a pet helper on the daily job chart." In addition, the children participated in extensive dramatic play scenarios where they explored the job of being a veterinarian. The teachers supported this interest by supplementing the materials in the classroom with stuffed animals, bandages, stethoscopes, empty medicine containers, plastic otoscopes, empty medicine containers, x-rays, diagrams of animals and more. Witter said, "While the children acted out the role of veterinarian, I saw a lot of real caring for the toy animals that they were examining."

The children even had a visit from a parent who is a local veterinarian. Monica Turenne, mother of Kangaroo child Nicholas Turenne, shared stories about her profession and brought in various tools that vets use to help the animals. Teacher Kelly Wade said, "It was really nice having Monica visit with the children because they were so passionate about wanting to take care of animals. Earlier in the year, Monica had been very helpful when our own class hamster, Fluffy, suddenly became ill and passed away a few weeks later. It was nice having Monica's support and expertise throughout that ordeal." Throughout many rich experiences, the children discovered how veterinarians help animals stay healthy and treat animals that are sick.

The Kangaroo Room teachers, Kelly Wade, Nancy Witter and Natalie Wiesend, began a long term tzedakah project when the 3- and 4-year-olds became interested in putting money into the classroom tzedakah jar. The children and teachers decided to do a tzedakah project to benefit the HVHS. Every week on Shabbat, each child added money to the tzedakah jar while singing the song, "Tzedakah" by Andi Joseph. The goal was to raise money to buy as many items from the HVHS Wish List as possible. The

Kangaroo room with their purchases

Playing vet

Visit from HVAS

families and teachers made extra donations to augment the children's weekly donations. Some families donated items from the wish list.

The teachers, children and some parent volunteers took a field trip to Meijer to buy items from the HVHS's wish list. Before the trip, Rachel Perlman, 4, said, "I love kitties! We're finding kitty food so the kitties have something to eat." The children split up into seven groups and shopped for specific items on their shopping list. Monica Turenne said, "My son, Nicholas, understood why we were at Meijer, and was so excited to be picking out rawhides that he helped pay for!" The children enjoyed searching for the items and putting them in the carts! During the field trip, Ethan Weisner, 3, said, "We're buying kitty litter for the cats so they don't have to go on the floor."

After the field trip, the teachers and children looked over the items. The children were fascinated with the various dog toys, pet food and other supplies. Parent volunteer, Jodi Wilkins said, "When shopping time was done and we combined all the items, it was great to see how much we were able to buy! That night, my daughter was still talking about the different kinds of animals that the items would be able to help!"

A Humane Society volunteer, Jerry Nordblom, and his therapy dog, Cori, visited the Kangaroo Room to collect the donation. Nordblom told the children that Cori is a mixed breed Border Collie/Beagle. Nordblom thanked the children for all of the hard work they had done to help support the Humane Society. He shared Cori's history and how he had adopted him. He showed the children various items people need to take care of animals. Each child petted Cori and gave him a treat. It was touching to watch the happiness on the children's faces as they gently petted Cori. Nordblom gave each child a packet with a Humane Society coloring book and further information on the work done by the Humane Society. The class learned that HVHS received an Outstanding Large Shelter Award from the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance. The shelter helps over 10,000 animals per year and it currently has a save rate of 81 percent.

After the visit, Nordblom wrote, "Dear Natalie: On behalf of the Humane Society of Huron Valley, Cori and I want to thank you, your fellow teachers and of course all the children for our great visit last week. We always enjoy meeting with children and Cori always likes the attention and of course the treats. Be sure to tell the children that their great gifts were appreciated by the folks at HSHV, but mostly by the animals there. Right now there are so many pets in need of loving care and the gifts are appreciated."

Reaching out to the HVHS created a sense of community in the classroom, according to the teachers. The Kangaroo teachers were pleasantly surprised with the amount of money that the families donated. The families have been very generous and the teachers appreciate all of their support. Parent Ilana Blumberg commented, "Our son was deeply enthusiastic about all parts of this project: collecting the money, writing the list of things needed, shopping, and giving the things to the Humane Society, not to mention the great visit to the classroom from the Humane Society representative and an actual dog! Shai learned about animals' needs, about organizations that help, and about his own role in contributing to causes that matter to him and to us."

The teachers were delighted that the tzedakah project was such a success and that the children gleaned insight into the importance of helping others in need. Projects such as this one foster our preschoolers' sense of philanthropy, goodwill and Jewish values. Monica Turenne said, "I thought this project was a great idea from start to finish. The amount of passion and effort the teachers put into making this a meaningful and relevant project for the kids was just amazing. Having the representative from HSHV come to the JCC with a dog gave such meaningful closure for the project. Nicholas learned a sense of giving to others, responsibility, teamwork and a sense of fulfillment. How many three year-olds learn all of that in one project in preschool? I am so impressed. Thanks to Natalie, Kelly and Nancy for all your hard work. It makes a difference!" ■

For more information on the JCC's Early Childhood Center, contact ECC Director Noreen DeYoung at noreendeyoung@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

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Beth Israel teens bring butterf ies to Baltimore

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Eight teenagers from Beth Israel Congregation traveled to Baltimore, Maryland, to participate in an "alternative spring break" program. These programs, which have gained popularity over the last decade, provide students the chance to spend their vacation week traveling to a different community and participating in service work. While these programs have become commonplace on college campuses, they are relatively new for high school students, and Beth Israel proud of its role in developing such opportunities.

The trip was organized in conjunction with Jewish Funds for Justice (JFSJ. This organization offers service learning opportunities for teens and college students, partnering with local agencies in order to create a program that is meaningful for participants and has a needed and lasting impact on the community. Baltimore was recommended as a location for the trip because it has similarities to Detroit, and the students were able to develop skills that will be used closer to home. While in Baltimore, the group volunteered with Civic Works, a city-wide urban service corps. One of their many initiatives involves taking demolished space and creating community gardens.

The students built a butterfly garden for a local elementary school. The school psychologist had written and received a grant for the creation of this garden. It will be used for educational lessons across the curriculum. It also serves a critical purpose. The elementary school is located in a neighborhood that suffers from poverty and crime. Students are very excited about the opportunity to build something new and beautiful that they can call their own. While the Beth Israel teen worked on the garden, dozens of students approached their teachers to sign up to participate in its cultivation and maintenance. Each day children passed by, their eyes wide with excitement, for this new element in their community.

BIC teens on their alternative spring break in Baltimore

The students who participated in the program were: Marley Beaver, Lindsey Beaver, Josh Bender, Adam Carbeck, Zach Colton, Talia Dessel, Rebecca Greenberg and Ilana Rashes. They were accompanied by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and Jacob Kander. Upon returning to Ann Arbor, this group will explore opportunities for service in the local community, encourage their peers to join their initiatives, and begin to plan for similar service delegations for the future. During our week in Baltimore, this group not only provided much needed service to a population in need, but they also explored Jewish values, including tikkun olam, repairing the world. They formed strong bonds, which they will bring home with them as they continue their work locally.

In the coming year Beth Israel will offer as part of its Madrichim (Jewish Leaders) program for 9th–12th grade, opportunities for service in Michigan. Applications are being accepted through the summer. An additional Alternative Spring Break program is also being planned for the coming year. For more information, contact Rabbi Blumenthal at 665-9897. ■

HDS students help others at *Kehillah* events

Dina Shtul, special to the WJN

On a Sunday in April, Hebrew Day School (HDS) families joined together with 22 seniors at Brookhaven Manor to decorate spring flower pots and to plant marigold seeds. The room was filled with smiles and friendly chatter, as the residents and HDS children and their parents became acquainted. "It was touching to watch the interactions between the seniors and the children," said Ali Reingold, an HDS parent who helped organize this event through her involvement with the HDS PTO. "One resident who had been watching a fellow resident, pulled me over and said, 'That little girl sitting on that woman's lap just made her day.'"

Rachel Pacernick and Gabi Levy write letters to Daniel Saltzman serving in Afghanistan

HDS Student Council adopts Clinton Park

The event at Brookhaven is one in a series of activities for HDS students and their families. "We call them *KeHillah* events," explained Reingold. "*KeHillah* means community; through the events, we instill in our children a love for reaching out and helping others in our community. Everyone benefits." The month before, students made 100 origami cranes to send to OshKoshB'Gosh. For every crane made by a student, the company donated one article of clothing to the children affected by the Tsunami in Japan. Next month's event will be a trip to Food Gatherers to help sort food in the pantry.

HDS Student Council is also involved in helping the community. The students adopted Clinton Park, joining the city's effort to maintain its 2000 acres of park land at 162 parks. The students mulched and watered the trees and will also plant flowers. Clinton Park is adjacent to the school and is used by students during their recess. The students also organized a school recycling program. As part of their daily routine, they circulate to the classrooms and offices to collect the items in the recycling bins and deposit them outside in the larger recycling bins. The students shared their thoughts in a discussion on their class wikispace. "It makes me feel really good to see how full the recycling bins get," said Rachel Pacernick. "I know that every time we recycle, we save tons of trees and that just makes me feel even better," explained Pacernick. "Recycling every week makes me feel really good about what our school is doing for the environment," added Emma Block. "The recycling helps me realize that our planet really needs us; it's the little things we do that count," said Gabi Levy. "I have tried to be more green at home," said Grace Kaufer. "Being able to help the environment not only at home but also at school made me feel great."

Maddy Grand makes flower pots with Brookhaven resident Sara Schoem

The students also raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan which last year granted 345 wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions. "If I was one of those sick kids, I would have felt loved by the whole world; it made me realize how lucky I am," said Arianna Seir. On Purim, the students visited the seniors living at Glacier Hills Retirement Community. "It felt so good to talk to the seniors and get to know them. This was a great mitzvah," said Liana Dunietz. Back at school, they wrote letters to a former HDS student, Daniel Saltzman, who is deployed in Afghanistan, working as a medic.

"When we get involved, it feels like we are not just kids entertaining ourselves; we are also helping the community," said Avi Weingarten. "It's nice to do things for other people in the community," agreed Brayan Zivan. "When we help the community, we also help ourselves," added Natan Zekic. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or see the school's website at www.hdsaa.org. Private tours are available.

Ali Reingold shows one of the Cranes for a Cause

Celebrate Israel 2011

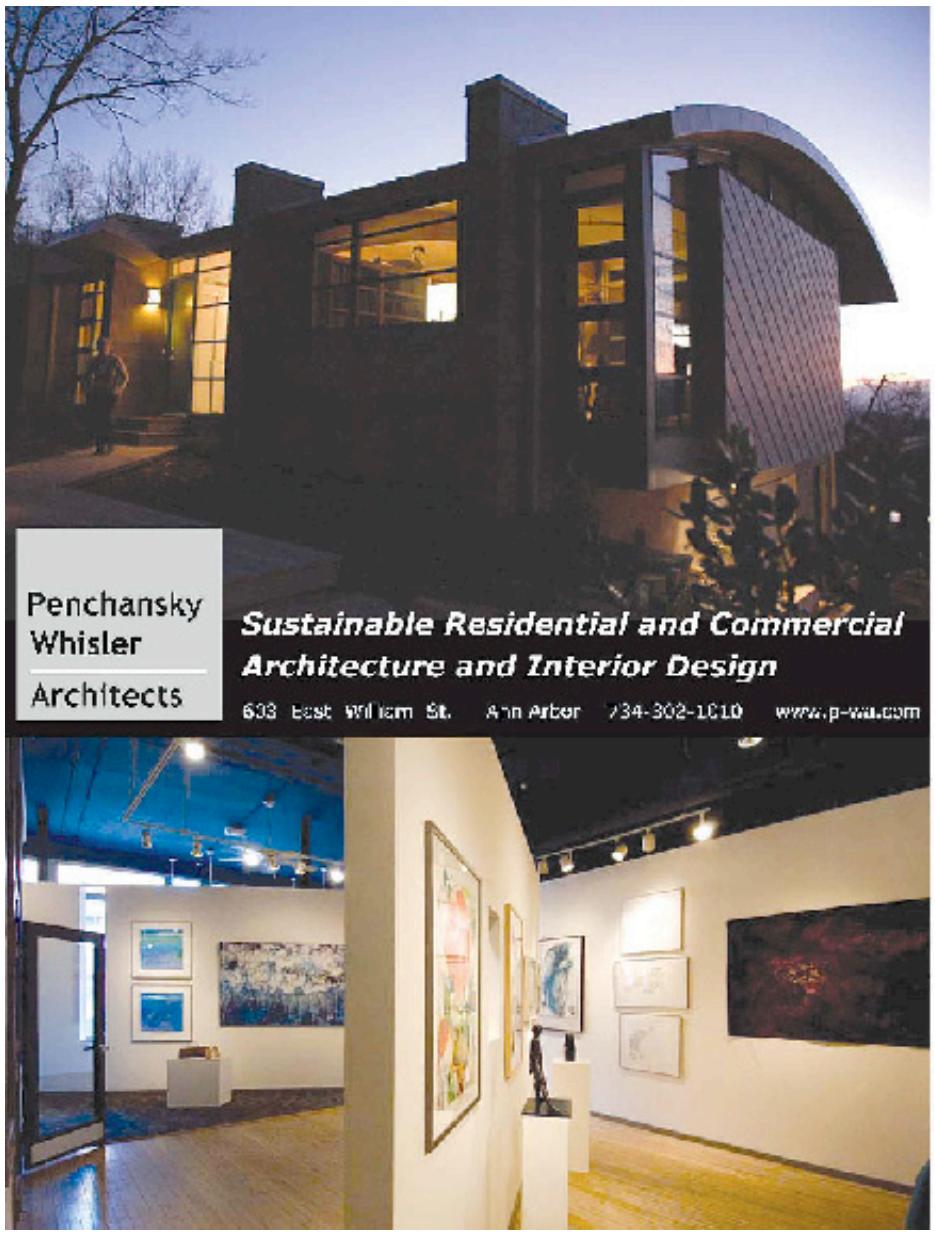
The Jewish Federation's Celebrate Israel drew more people than ever as 588 people registered to enjoy an afternoon of Israeli song, dance, food and entertainment in honor of Israel's 63rd anniversary. Once again, the delegation from Nahalal was a huge hit. For the first time, the Chai Riders motorcycle group joined the festivities and the Jewish Hikers of Michigan led a Walk for Israel to conclude the afternoon. Event Chair Laurel Hern, noted that 150 volunteers from across the Jewish community came together to make this event possible.

1. The community enjoying the Federation's Celebrate Israel
2. David Shtulman, Federation director, welcomes everyone to Celebrate Israel and Jake Kander and Clara Silver sing the anthems
3. The Nahalal delegation from Israel
4. The Federation's Young Adult Division; Karen Elkins, Emily Farber, Emily Vandommele and Laurie Gendron

Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, brought the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for its tenth year. The festival showcased 15 films, 2 lunch and learn programs and several guest speakers over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty from Sunday, May 15 through Thursday, May19. Of the 15 films, seven were award winning and three films featured Academy Award nominated actors. The films displayed a worldwide presence as they were created in France, Germany, Israel, Argentina, Mexico, the United States, Russia and Canada. Next year's Jewish film festival will take place April 29–May 3, 2012.

5. Marylen Oberman and Mark and Susan Orringer enjoy a baseball-anthemed dinner catered by Simply Scrumptious Catering
6. Ari and Robert Axelrod serenade the crowd with a rendition of *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*
7. Phyllis and David Herzig enjoy a night out at the movies
7. Sue Adler, JCC Executive Director Andrea Rosner-Najer and Larry Adler on their way in to see the film *The Yankles*
9. Jewish Film Festival Chairs Elaine Margolis and Levana Aronson enjoy the Sponsor Reception at the Michigan Theater



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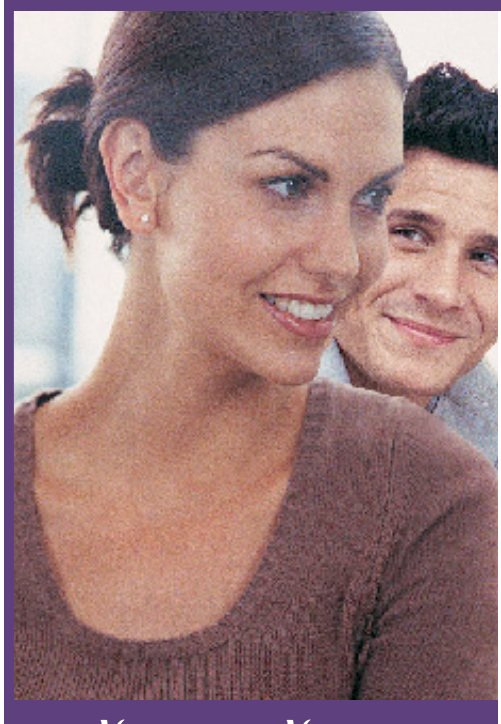

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News from Camp Raanana

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Camp Raanana will welcome many wonderful returning staff members and many exciting additions to the staff. Camp Raanana is the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's outdoor summer day camp for children entering grades K–8. Camp Raanana works hard to assemble a staff of talented, dynamic, and mature individuals to ensure that each camper will have an incredible summer camp experience.

The camp directors team for this summer will consist of Shoshana Jackson (incoming Youth, Teen, and Camp Director), Deborah Huerta (outgoing Youth, Teen, & Camp Director), Shannon Link (Interim Camp Director), and Sarah Mirsky (Assistant Camp Director). Shoshana Jackson was recently promoted to the position of Youth, Teen, and Camp Director to replace Deborah Huerta, who will be transitioning out of her position during the spring and summer in order to return to school. Interim Camp Director Shannon Link will oversee daily operations this summer during the transition and will be assisted by Sarah Mirsky, who will be serving as Assistant Camp Director.

Long-time staff member Sarah Mirsky is currently completing a degree in elementary and early childhood education and will be student teaching this fall in the Plymouth Canton school district. She has also been working as an afterschool childcare assistant and supervisor at Thurston Elementary School for the past three years. Mirsky has been part of the Camp Raanana staff for over seven years and has served as the head counselor for the entering kindergarten group for the past several summers.

Kim Braun, Camp Raanana's waterfront director, is also returning for another camp season. During the school year, Braun is the energetic and enthusiastic physical education teacher for the JCC and Hebrew Day School. She has taught at the JCC since 1999 and loves working with her current and former students at Camp Raanana. Braun enjoys teaching children to appreciate the water and has over 20 years of experience as a certified lifeguard, water safety instructor, and CPR and lifeguard instructor.

One of the exciting new faces on the Camp Raanana staff this summer will be Deborah Sacks, who has been hired as program coordinator to oversee music and culture activities and the counselor-in-training program. Sacks graduated from University of Michigan two years ago with a degree in vocal performance and a minor in religion. She is a fluent Hebrew speaker and spent a year after graduation volunteering at an at-risk children's home in Israel. Since returning from Israel, Sacks has been working as a teacher, tutor, and song leader at Temple Beth Emeth. She also has extensive prior experience as a religious school teacher, camp counselor and lifeguard, and music instructor, and has been involved in a number of international service and learning projects including a music internship in India, a U-M World Service Project in Nicaragua, an American Jewish World Service volunteer experience in Ghana, and a Bronfman Youth Fellowship in Israel.

Shoshana Jackson

Shannon Link

Sarah Mirsky

Kim Braun

Sacks and Braun will be joined by many other talented specialists and counselors at Camp Raanana. Returning staff members include: Mira Preston, Daniel Ehrlich, Noah Wagner, Anna Cohen, Rachel Evans, Joe Mirsky, Hannah Dubov, Eli Sugerman, and Marlowe Susselman. New staff members will include: Kathryn Ashin, Mariya Gefter, Sadie Besl, Sarah Carlson, Dan Butler, Katie Smith, Ike Wake, Ilana Miller, Maya Greifer, and Jake Levine.

Pictures and bios of all the camp staff are available at www.CampRaanana.com. Registration forms, brochures, and further details about the camp are also available on the website. The registration deadline for Camp Raanana is June 1, but families interested in registering after the deadline may contact campdirector@jccfed.org or 971-0990 to inquire about space availability. ■

Camp Raanana to hold open house on June 16

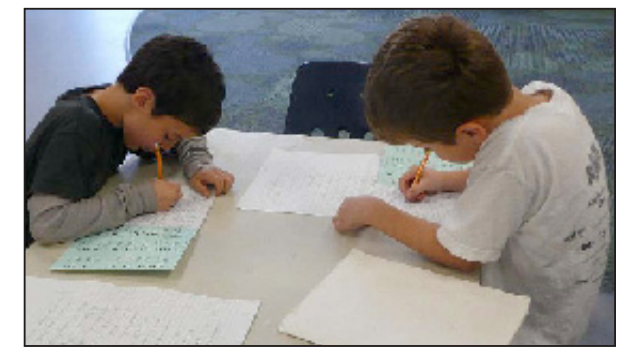
All families who are registered for Camp Raanana are invited to the annual Camp Open House on Thursday, June 16, from 6–8 p.m. The Open House will be held at Camp Raanana's private camp site at Independence Lake Park (3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake). This will be an opportunity for families to tour the camp site, meet the counselors and staff, and enjoy fun activities and a free kosher hot dog or veggie dog dinner with other camp families.

JCC youth programs

Shoshana Jackson, special to the WJN

Summer Break Program, August 22–26

Due to the timing of Labor Day this year, there will be a gap between the end of the summer camp season and the start of school for many families. To help bridge this gap, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will offer a Summer Fun Days program from August 22–26. Each day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess. Students should bring a nut free, meat free lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside.



Homwork time in Kids' Konnection

The Summer Fun Days are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost for each day is $36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Participants may sign up for one or more days.

Programming details and registration forms will be available in mid-summer at www.jccannarbor.org and at the JCC. Registration and payment are due by Monday, August 15, but spaces may fill up before then. For more information, contact Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Registration opening for JCC Afterschool Programs

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor is looking forward to providing another great year of afterschool programs for 2011–2012. The JCC's afterschool programs are designed to provide the fun and excitement children desire and the safety and convenience parents need.

The JCC offers two afterschool program options, Kids' Konnection and Kids' Club. Kids' Konnection caters to students in kindergarten through second grade with nurturing staff, daily group time, and exciting supervised activities. Kids' Club is designed to meet the interests of third through fifth graders with designated homework time, separate hang-out spaces, and special activity choices. Both programs run from 3:20–6 p.m. daily. Parents interested in afterschool programs for 6th-8th graders should inquire about the JCC's Middle School Helpers program.

The JCC's afterschool programs offer convenient scheduling options, allowing parents to choose schedules from 2 to 5 days per week. Drop-in care is also available for students who need afterschool care only occasionally or less than 2 days per week, or for students who need additional days beyond their normal schedule. Afterschool program participants receive discounts on youth enrichment classes at the JCC and tuition also includes extended care during JCC programs on days off from school.

Several afternoon transportation options are available for students who attend local elementary schools. Ann Arbor Public Schools provide free bus transportation to the JCC from Bryant, Pattengill, and Ann Arbor Open schools. In certain cases if there is sufficient interest, the JCC may also be able to provide transportation from some other elementary schools.

For more information about the JCC's afterschool programs, contact Youth Director Shoshana Jackson at shoshanajackson@jccfed.org or 971-0990. Registration forms will be available soon at the JCC and at www.jccannarbor.org. ■

KIds gather for storytime during the JCC afterschool program

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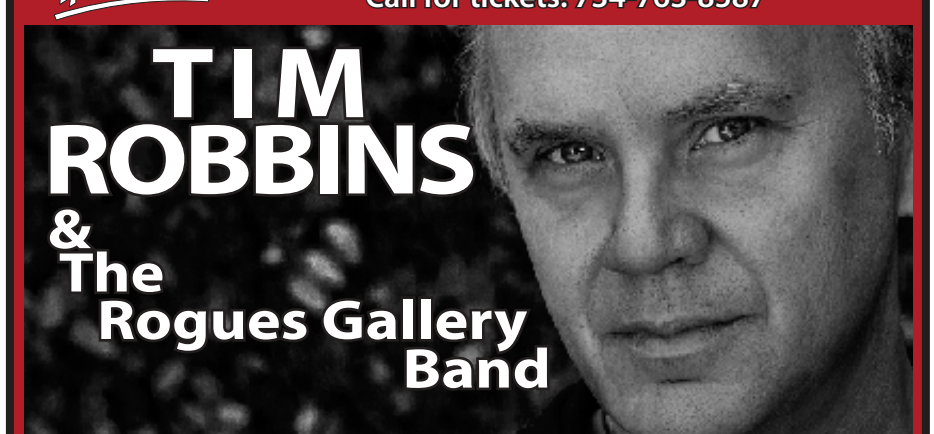

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Digital news archive marks historic first

By JTA Staff

NEW YORK (JTA)—Known today as the massacre at Babi Yar, the killing near Kiev of tens of thousands of Jews by German troops at the end of September 1941, is remembered today as one of the most grisly chapters of the Holocaust in Ukraine.

In the weeks after the slaughter, however, the world did not know. Historians believe it was a Nov. 16, 1941 dispatch from JTA—published without a byline and with the dateline "Somewhere in Europe"—that broke the news to the West and English-speaking readers.

That first report of the massacre at Babi Yar is one of more than 250,000 JTA articles from 1923 to the present that are now available online as part of JTA's new digital news archive.

The archive itself marks a historic first: It's the only collection of English-language reporting covering the Jewish world in the 20th century available online. And it's free.

Until now, those interested in Jewish reporting over the last century or so had to find libraries that housed the yellowing tearsheets of Jewish news dispatches. A daunting task even for seasoned scholars, the originals themselves often were difficult to decipher either because of their poor condition or because they were in Yiddish. But with the launch of JTA's archive on May 3, anyone with an Internet connection has access to all of JTA's original articles.

"There is no American Jewish source with this reach," says historian Jonathan Sarna, the Brandeis University professor who oversaw the JTA archive project. Sarna is also a JTA board member. "The archive has the potential to spark an interest in the past that will transform the future."

Founded in 1917 to be a voice of and for the Jewish people at a time when news of what was happening to the Jews of Europe and Russia was hard to come by, JTA has been a primary source of English-language Jewish news on everything from Hitler's rise—the first JTA report about Hitler was printed on Jan. 30, 1923—to the struggle to free Soviet Jewry, the founding of Israel and the long arc of 20th-century American Jewish history.

"This archive is a testament to journalists dedicated to chronicling the story of the Jewish people, through triumph and travail, throughout the world," said Ami Eden, JTA's editor in chief and CEO. "It is a testament to journalists devoted to the idea that there is a narrative connecting Jews in the United States, Israel and around the world, whether rich or poor, oppressed or thriving, religious or secular, hawkish or dovish."

JTA remains a leading source for news of Jewish interest and concern, providing content to about 80 newspapers and publications around the world, including this one. JTA also publishes a daily e-mail news bulletin called the JTA Daily Briefing, and all of the agency's material is available online at JTA.org. "For anybody who wants to see how Jewish history has meaning and implications for us today, we need the JTA historical archive," said Steven M. Cohen, director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. "It opens up a whole world of the past."

In the 1940s, when the Nazi gas chambers were running strong and news of the genocide of the Jews was buried in papers like *The New York Times*, JTA was transmitting a ceaseless stream of news from the front that painted a detailed picture of the emerging Holocaust. Decades later, historians would turn to these dispatches as evidence that news of what was happening to Europe's Jews indeed was available in real time—and widely ignored. "There was and still is a lot of conventional wisdom that Americans didn't know about the Holocaust while it was happening," said journalism professor Laurel Leff of Northeastern University. "With this archive, people can go and they can actually look at the bulletins that JTA sent out during this period and see that much of the information was in fact available."

It was perhaps poetic justice that the painstaking labor of digitizing the files—converting yellowing news clips and fading microfiche slides into digital files by typing them up—was outsourced to young Cambodians, members of a society that is still emerging from the genocidal history of the Khmer Rouge. The work was overseen by Digital Divide Data, a nonprofit organization that provides jobs to disadvantaged youths in Southeast Asia.

The initial planning and digitization was funded by the Gottesman Fund, George S. Blumenthal, the Grace and Scott Offen Charitable Fund, and Robert Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner in honor of her mother, Norma Spungen. Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation and The Charles H. Revson Foundation paid for the development of the actual website, which can be accessed at archive.jta.org.

JTA, a nonprofit organization, is reaching out to other foundations and philanthropists to cover remaining start-up costs and create programs to enhance the archive's effectiveness as an educational tool for younger users. In addition, JTA hopes reader donations will help cover the ongoing maintenance of the archive.

The archive itself is a stockpile of stories, significant and insignificant, chronicling major milestones and figures in Jewish history, as well as forgotten episodes and personalities.

The archive's more than 900 articles on the Ku Klux Klan tell the story of the racist group's anti-Semitism. A 1928 article tells the story of a blood libel in upstate New York. In August 1929, JTA informed U.S. readers of the massacre of Jews in Hebron. A 1933 dispatch details a Purim parade in Tel Aviv that included some 10,000 Arabs. A 1965 article informs that black marchers in the American South donned yarmulkes as "freedom caps" in deference to the rabbis who marched with them.

Following the recent passing of Elizabeth Taylor, bloggers and reporters around the Internet cited a 1977 dispatch reporting that an Israeli official said the Hollywood starlet offered herself up in exchange for the Israeli hostages being held in Entebbe. The archive covers everything from the construction of a dolphinarium in Tel Aviv to American Jewish women organizing boycotts of Nazi products. When the Jewish state was founded in May 1948, JTA printed Israel's declaration of independence in its entirety.

Researchers say the archive will provide new insight into the ongoing evolution of American Jewish life, including the role of women, intermarriage and the history of Judaism in the United States. JTA's dispatches also chronicled U.S. Jewish activism on several major issues, including civil rights and Soviet Jewry.

With the material now so easily accessible—not just to scholars in libraries but to students, journalists and casual Jewish and non-Jewish readers around the world—the archive has the potential to inaugurate a new era in understanding of American Jewish history, Sarna said.

"Until now, JTA has been the global news service of the Jewish people," he said. "Now it is the educational resource for the Jewish people." ■

Documentary recalls the horrors of Ma'alot school massacre

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Ma'alot-Tarshiha is a quiet Jewish-Arab city in the Galilee within walking distance of Israel's border with Lebanon. But 37 years ago, it was the scene of a horrific attack by Palestinian terrorists who took more than 100 students hostage in a school building, killing 22 and gravely wounding 68.

On May 9, the eve of Israel Independence Day, a new documentary about what is known as the Ma'alot Massacre had its world premiere in a one-night-only screening in 250 theaters nationwide. The mass screening of *Their Eyes Were Dry*, by 24-year-old Los Angeles filmmaker Brandon Assanti, is as much a tale of one young man's commitment to telling this heart-wrenching story as it is testimony to the pain and suffering of the survivors who for decades kept their memories to themselves.

"Up until now, in fact, I had to keep inside what had happened and begin my life over again, as if this never happened," says Tzipi Maimon-Bokris, one of a half-dozen now middle-aged survivors of the school massacre who agreed to tell their stories on camera for the first time.

The bare bones of the story: In the early-morning hours of May 15, 1974, three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical anti-Israel group, snuck across the border from Lebanon. Dressed as Israeli soldiers, they made their way to Ma'alot, where they killed three members of the Cohen family—apparently chosen at random—before entering an elementary school that was hosting more than 100 teenagers and teachers from a religious school in Safed for the night.

The terrorists held 115 hostages, including 105 students, and threatened to kill them if Israel did not release 23 prisoners being held on terror charges. For more than 12 grueling hours the young Israelis huddled in a booby-trapped classroom, abandoned by their teachers, until the terrorists turned on them with guns and grenades during a bloody rescue effort by the military. The world reacted in horror to the targeting of children in the name of politics.

Their Eyes Were Dry tells the story as no one has told it before. "As far as I know, it's the first full-length film about Ma'alot," said Marina Rozhansky, communications director for the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles, which has lent its name to the screenings.

Assanti spent five years on the project, his first full-length film. His parents are co-producers. He was 18 when he met Shlomo Bohbut, then the mayor of Ma'alot and a cousin of his father's, at a family dinner in Los Angeles. Captivated by the story Bohbut told, and inspired by the fact that the oldest of the teen hostages were a year younger than he was at the time, Assanti spent a year researching the incident.

"There was very little material available," he told JTA in a phone interview from his L.A. home. At 19, Assanti took his camera to Israel over spring break and summer vacation to track down survivors willing to share their memories. He doesn't speak Hebrew, so he traveled with a translator and his Moroccan-born father, who spent a few childhood years in Ma'alot. Most of the interviews are conducted in Hebrew, with English subtitles. Assanti also has produced a Hebrew-only version hoping to distribute the film in Israel.

For the next 2 1/2 years he edited at night and did his college work during the day, managing to graduate from Loyola Marymount College with a degree in finance, albeit somewhat behind schedule.

"I put everything on hold for this," he said.

Assanti steps back and lets those who suffered through the horrible day unwind the story, hour by hour. Their almost dispassionate retelling, born of years of submerging painful memories, is interspersed with stunning archival footage but no narration. Assanti says he wanted his subjects to tell the story themselves, without outside commentary. The powerful technique works to his advantage.

Inured as people may be now to children being murdered in wars and terrorist attacks, it's rare that one has the opportunity to go inside an actual hostage situation and view it through the eyes of the children suffering through it. That's what Assanti and his subjects give us, and it is strong medicine indeed.

Yishy Maimon, the former mayor of Safed, was 17 at the time, and he describes standing by an open window in the classroom about to jump to safety when he remembered his younger brother, Shimon, was still being held. How could he go home and face his parents having left his brother behind?

Maimon-Bokris, who was famously photographed being carried to safety in her brother's arms, recalls the terrorist leader telling the children that they were "all going home now" before spraying them with gunfire and hurling a grenade at them.

"Throughout the day we tried to persuade them not to kill us," she relates in the film. "One said, soon you'll be soldiers—we have to stop you now."

Major Gen. (Res.) Amiram Levin, who commanded the rescue operation, relates the conflict that raged that day between Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who urged decisive military action, and Chief of Staff Moshe Gur, who favored caution.

When he finally reached the classroom and saw the carnage—flesh clinging to the walls, headless bodies swimming in pools of blood—Levin's heart broke.

"The whole operation took 30, 35 seconds," he tells the camera. "If we'd been able to do it in 10, how many more could we have saved?"

The Ma'alot Massacre has become an iconic part of Israeli history. But by focusing on the personal stories of the children themselves, Assanti tries to universalize the horror. The politics fade into the background as the minutes tick by.

"Just watching the news about the Fogel family, it's so obvious why this film is so important," says Assanti, referring to last month's murder of five members of a West Bank Jewish family by Palestinian terrorists. "Terrorism is still prevalent, and children are still targeted, still caught in the crosshairs of politics between countries. That should never happen."

The Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles worked with Jewish Life Television and StandWithUs to promote the May 9 screenings, which were presented by NCM Fathom and The Machine Management in 250 participating theaters nationwide through NCM's Digital Broadcast Network. The screenings were billed as "An Evening of Reflection and Song" and included a pre-recorded musical performance by the Cantors' Assembly featuring the acclaimed Cantor Alberto Mizrahi. ■

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MICHIGAN LIGHT *as a* design tool

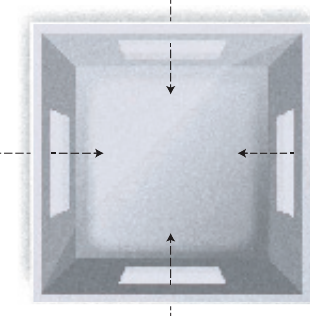
LIKE SUNLIGHT EVERYWHERE, Michigan sunlight has multiple personalities. It ranges from direct light—bright enough to cast shadows; to diffuse light—uniform, reflected light that only illuminates. But in Michigan, fully bright skies (skies with less than 30 percent cloud cover) occur fewer than 100 days each year. Clouds turn direct light into diffuse light and reduce its brightness. So, on most days, the Michigan home receives sunlight at less than full potential.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Diffuse, even, blue light. Paint the room blue to create a calm, serene environment with luminous, glowing walls. There will be less glare in the room filled with northern light—a good choice for a home office/computer environment, a tranquil reading nook or the perfect artist's studio.

WESTERN LIGHT

Heat gain and significant glare make this light the most challenging with which to work. Though a sunset view may seem a tempting addition to the evening meal, low sun angles at the end of the day bring uncomfortable glare. A solution may be narrow windows at the room's edges allowing the orange sunlight to enter the room, yet keeping it out of the eyes of those at the dinner table.



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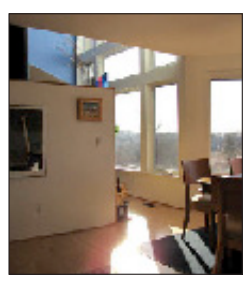
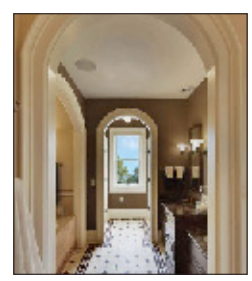
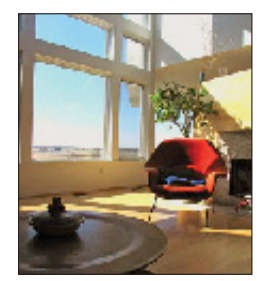
Full Michigan sunshine, present only on those 100 days of clear, blue skies each year, should not be squandered. Window seats in sunny spots and well-placed stained glass are two great ways to celebrate sunlight with architecture. Shadows enrich architecture and can be cast by architectural trim details, textured surfaces, or screens mounted near windows that throw shadow patterns on interior surfaces. Light from a skylight located near a wall can emphasize the wall's texture or highlight a wall-mounted display. Wall openings in interior spaces, pass-throughs that "borrow" light from adjacent rooms, work best when oriented towards the sun.







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Israel taking Holocaust restitution into its own hands

By Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA)—The Israeli government is firing a new salvo in the turf war over Holocaust restitution.

Following years of complaints by survivors about opacity and unjust allocation decisions by the Claims Conference, and after two decades of what critics deride as scant tangible successes by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), a new Israeli restitution organization is amassing hundreds of thousands of new claims for survivors and their heirs.

Called Project Heart, an acronym for Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce, the initiative comes at the behest of the Israeli government and aims to compile claims relating to assets stolen, confiscated or looted throughout Europe. Project Heart says it has collected information relating to some 500,000 stolen assets—from real estate, bank accounts, businesses and insurance policies to art and jewelry—and has handled 30,000 inquiries from survivors or heirs.

However, there are no agreements in place with any European countries to offer compensation for the stolen Jewish property.

"I certainly hope that the people that are responding affirmatively to the request for information by Project Heart aren't building up their hopes for immediate results," said Julius Berman, the chairman of the Claims Conference, which also is an organizational board member of the WJRO.

The project is one of two major restitution efforts being spearheaded by the Israeli government. The other, Hashava, a program to restitute Israeli assets purchased in prestate Palestine by Jews who perished in the Holocaust, already has disbursed some $115 million.

The establishment of Project Heart is an implicit indictment of the WJRO, which is charged with recouping restitution from European countries other than Germany and Austria but which has made little headway, particularly in the area of private property restitution.

It's also a signal that the Israeli government, which is funding Project Heart with some $2.4 million annually for three years, is going on its own in seeking restitution rather than working through existing Diaspora-led organizations. Israelis long had claimed that they were underrepresented on the Claims Conference board, and even though the WJRO is based in Israel, its board and executive committee are dominated by Diaspora members.

So far, there are no plans for collaboration between Project Heart and the Claims Conference or WJRO, even though they share a sponsor in the Jewish Agency for Israel. That has rankled officials like Berman.

"I really don't understand why this type of endeavor was not presented to the WJRO," he told JTA.

The initiative for Project Heart came from an Israeli government decision in February 2007 following strong pressure by the Pensioners' Party, which at the time controlled seven seats in the Israeli legislature. It took two more years for the project to become formalized. The chairman of Project Heart's advisory committee is the former head of the largely defunct Pensioners' Party, Rafael Eitan.

The project's establishment will be announced formally in Jerusalem on May 1, the eve of Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day.

With nearly $8 million to spend over three years, Project Heart dwarfs the WJRO, which has a $600,000 annual budget funded by the Claims Conference, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency.

The ad spending alone for Project Heart, which receives 92.5 percent of its funding from the Israeli government and the balance from the Jewish Agency, exceeds $500,000. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the ads include an electronic billboard commercial that appears in New York's Times Square for 30 seconds every hour.

> *The idea is to "record whatever we can from this generation" of survivors and their children before their knowledge about prewar Jewish assets are taken to the grave.*

With its focus on countries that have not yet restituted prewar Jewish properties, Project Heart is yet another sign that the battle for restitution will not die with the survivors.

"To a large extent, we are empowering the next generation," said Bobby Brown, director of Project Heart and a veteran of numerous restitution efforts. The idea, he said, is to "record whatever we can from this generation" of survivors and their children before their knowledge about prewar Jewish assets are taken to the grave.

The information is being collected and organized for Project Heart by A.B. Data, a Milwaukee-based data management company that has been involved in other class-action Holocaust restitution settlements. The company has set up a 24-hour call center for Project Heart with operators able to handle inquiries in 17 languages, and it's mining newly available archives in Europe and elsewhere for information that might help substantiate Jewish claims.

Once the database of stolen assets is compiled, Project Heart plans to use the information to pressure European countries to pay up or reach a settlement with Jewish heirs.

"We received tens of thousands of phone calls and hundreds of e-mails thanking us for continuing the legacy of survivors who have passed on and told their children not to give up, not to forget," said Anya Verkhovskaya, Project Heart's administrative director. "They said we're giving their parents and grandparents a voice and an opportunity to continue the fight."

But Renee Firestone, 87, a survivor who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., and filed a claim with Project Heart related to her father's home and textile business in prewar Czechoslovakia, says she is skeptical that the new effort will result in any success.

"I will be very surprised if anything will really happen, if they will come up with some resolution," Firestone said of Project Heart. "But I will get involved in anything that gives us some hope. We have to fight for everything."

The major problem faced by Project Heart, like the one faced by the WJRO since its establishment in 1993, is how to compel European countries to pass restitution laws that are politically unpopular and against their economic self-interest. Unlike Germany, which long has acknowledged its culpability and been cooperative on restitution issues, most European countries have been slow to sign on to any kind of agreement that would involve restituting property taken illegally from Jews during the World War II years.

More typically, Holocaust restitution negotiations are seen by the public in Eastern and Central European countries as depicted in a June 2009 cover of the Lithuanian tabloid Vakaro Zinios (The Evening News): The image shows an outsized American rabbi as a villainous Shylock demanding "Give it now!" of a diminutive Lithuanian prime minister.

That same month saw a major gain for advocates of Holocaust restitution, when at a landmark conference in Prague on Holocaust-era assets, 46 countries signed a nonbinding declaration endorsing principles for faster, more open, and transparent restitution of art and private and communal property seized during the Nazi years.

Since the agreement, called the Terezin Declaration, some progress has been made toward inking agreements on restitution of communal property in Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary and Romania. But there have been setbacks, too: In March, the Polish government announced that it was suspending consideration of a restitution bill due to the difficult economic climate.

"The situation is not easy, I will not deny it," David Peleg, the director general of the WJRO, told JTA. "Some of the countries tell us that because of the economic situation they just don't have the money to support the legislation."

For survivors like Firestone, who said five Holocaust survivor friends of hers had died in just the last month, it all amounts to the same thing: more delays.

"I really believe that they are waiting for us to be dead and then they can do whatever they want with the money—the Europeans, the Claims Conference and the insurance companies," Firestone told JTA. "They are dragging the situation out by not answering the questions, by not giving the money."

For its part, the Claims Conference rejects the notion that it is hoarding money, saying the organization has accelerated payouts and pushed Germany harder in recent years.

"The Claims Conference knows we are in a race against time," Berman said, "to provide a small measure of justice to as many Holocaust victims as possible in their lifetimes." ■

Yom HaShoah at Holocaust Memorial Center

On May 1, 2011, more than 750 visitors gathered at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and to declare "Never Again." The ceremony included a reading of the names of those who perished, a candle lighting ceremony, recitations, and responsive readings. After the Yom HaShoah service, the Holocaust Memorial Center and the Children of Holocaust-Survivors Association in Michigan celebrated the opening of the Center's newest permanent exhibit "Portraits of Honor: Our Michigan Holocaust Survivors." The exhibit's interactive display gives visitors the ability to explore the stories, history, and portraits of more than 400 Holocaust survivors. The exhibit is planned to grow to contain the stories of more than 1,000 survivors in the coming year. If you know a survivor who has lived in Michigan who is not yet included in this exhibit, contact the Holocaust Memorial Center at (248) 553-2400. ■

Survivor Martin Water lights the first memorial candle as his grandson, Zachary Water, and Abram Weberman look on.

Dr. Charles Silow, President of the Children of Holocaust-Survivors Association in Michigan introduces the exhibit "Portraits of Honor."

Theater director Kate Mendeloff

San Slomovits, staff writer

Kate Mendeloff is probably best known to Ann Arborites as the director of the highly popular summer theater series, Shakespeare in the Arb. SITA has become a beloved Ann Arbor institution since it's first production, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," premiered in June of 2001. Mendeloff is a Lecturer IV at the University of Michigan's Residential College and regularly directs many other theater productions throughout the year. I talked with her earlier this spring, coincidentally on the first day of auditions for this year's SITA production of "The Winter's Tale." The day before we talked there was still snow on the ground from a late snowstorm a couple of days earlier.

Mendeloff: Look what I did to Ann Arbor by choosing "The Winter's Tale!" Did I curse the Ann Arbor weather because I chose this play to do in the summer? I usually hold the auditions in the courtyard of the RC and it's usually seventy and sunny, and everybody is running around the courtyard. Today I'm going to hold it inside, in the theater, which is going to feel very different.

This is the first time we're doing" The Winter's Tale" for SITA. I worked on it in graduate school, as the assistant director, at Yale Drama School in 1978. I worked on the pastoral scene, the Fourth Act. I had the opportunity to spend several months thinking about the play. It's always been something I wanted to do from beginning to end. I think it works really well in the Arb, despite the title, because at least half of the play is in a pastoral setting, around a sheep shearing festival.

WJN: The time for which is now.

Mendeloff: Right, early spring. It's interesting. There is nothing in the play about winter, except that the young prince asks for a story and says, "A sad tale's best for winter. I have one of sprites and goblins." The play is pretty intense. It really is a whole tragedy in three acts. But then, the second half of the play, the fourth act, which is almost as long as those three acts, is the rebirth, is the turning of the tragedy into something positive. It's known as a late romance, it was written late in Shakespeare's canon, and it has that sense of rebirth, renewal, spring coming after winter, life coming after death. It appeals to me very much for those reasons. I think it will be wonderful in the Arb because so much of it is about nature. There's a lot of language about flowers and about the healing powers of nature. I held off and didn't do it for a number of years because whenever I would say, "I'd like to do The Winter's Tale," people would say, "Winter's Tale? In the summer?" (Laughter) But finally I thought, this is the year we should do it.

Kate Mendelhof

WJN: You've been involved with theater for most of your life?

Mendeloff. It's been a pretty consistent arc. I was a kid who always did plays, in my parents' front hall, on the porch in the back....

WJN: Where did you grow up?

Mendeloff: In Baltimore. My dad was a physician and the chief of medicine at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. My mother didn't have a job, but she did a lot of wonderful work. She founded the Shelter for Battered Women in Baltimore, she started a women's peer counseling service. She's a force of nature. She's ninety now. My dad passed away in 1983. My parents took me to theater regularly, I had an aunt that I was very fond of who lived in Manhattan, so we saw a lot of theater in New York, a lot of theater in Baltimore and Washington, and I was encouraged in my interest. I was the youngest child; I'm about nine years younger than my older brothers. I was kind of an only child, and I suppose, very spoiled in my way. (Laughter) I had the opportunity to do a lot of things. I was part of a group called Children's Theater Association, which was in downtown Baltimore. I was involved in that from the time I was probably about nine years old until I was thirteen or fourteen and there was a very dynamic leader for that group named Isabel Burger. She wrote a book about creative dramatics for children, she taught us to "think the thought and paint the picture." I remember a very early exercise of being the little match girl in Hans Christian Anderson, freezing to death. (Laughter) You know, thinking the thought and painting the picture, trying to be realistic about how poor and cold I was, when I was anything but. That was a wonderful experience. We were in productions every year. Then, in the summers, when I was a little bit older, I went to an arts camp in the Berkshire Mountains called Beaupre, in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, so I had the opportunity to go to the Williamstown Theatre, a very important summer theater where many New York actors worked. I saw a lot of great productions there and later, when I was older, I apprenticed there. I had a lot of opportunities to see professional actors and be involved in performance. The summer camp was an all girls' camp, so I played a lot of male leads. (Laughter) Which was very good too. I was taller than most of my fellow campers, and somewhat on the bigger side, so I got to play a lot of mature characters. Good challenges.

Then, when I was in high school, a group of my friends who were also interested in theater, and I, went every week to Washington to the Arena Stage Living Stage Workshop. This was run by an amazing man named Robert Alexander. He taught improv and he was a brilliant, brilliant teacher. I went there for two years. Just think of the dedication of those mothers who drove us from Baltimore to Washington every week! However, because it was a five-hour workshop, they got the whole day to go to the museums.

In one of those summers in high school, I went to Phillips Andover Academy. I did theater there, and that's when I first worked on Brecht. I was in the Caucasian Chalk Circle, playing Grusha. Totally fell in love with Brecht and with that play, which is significant later, and then the next year went to the Williamstown Theater, as an apprentice. That was my first time really being in a professional theater environment, and I didn't like it. I had been contemplating applying to a conservatory program for college, and that changed my mind. So I applied to regular liberal arts colleges and went to Princeton, which didn't even have a theater department at that time.

WJN: What didn't you like about the professional theater environment?

Mendeloff: I didn't like the competition. I didn't like the cliquishness. I was also very naïve. I was from Baltimore, most of the people were from New York, and I was on the younger side, so they were sophisticated in a way that I wasn't. I felt kind of overwhelmed. But, I think that was significant in that really, what I love about theater is the exploration process, but also the idea that it's open to everyone. And that I think was very true in my training. I trained with people who were very based in ensemble work. Bob Alexander was like that, Isabel Burger was like that. At Princeton, even though we didn't have a department, we had some great people come down and teach from New York. I worked with people from Joseph Chaikin's Open Theater, which was a very significant ensemble theater in the 1960s. An offshoot of his group is called The Talking Band, and those actors were my teachers at Princeton. A lot of their approach was developing new material in an ensemble setting. I became involved in student theater when I was an undergraduate and I ultimately directed the Caucasian Chalk Circle, which I had loved. I did it in an ensemble way that was very appropriate to the play, and won a lot of awards for it. It was a really significant turning point for me to realize that directing was something that I liked much better than acting. It felt more suited to my personality and temperament and my interests, because it incorporates so many different aspects of humanities. You have to know history, art history, music, literature, psychology. So that was a real kind of coming of age. The group of people who were in that production in 1975, we're still great, close friends. Many of them are professional actors now.

I went to graduate school at Yale Drama School in their directing program, and I found a lot of the same things that I had experienced in Williamstown. I was the only woman in the directing program. When I came to Princeton I was in the second class of women there. It was a time of a lot of breaking boundaries. I didn't find it a problem at Princeton, but I

A scene from the SITA production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Continued from previous page

found it more of a problem at Yale, I think, because of the expectation of what a director is, a kind of hierarchical expectation, and that's not who I was, or how I worked. Also, I was pretty young and inexperienced. I had only directed two major plays. Even though I had a lot of background in theater, I didn't have a lot of background in directing. I had a tough time, but I worked with a lot of great people. I worked with Richard Gellman, a really brilliant man, on Ibsen and Chekhov and that was very important work. I'm still very interested in those writers, and teach classes focusing on those plays. Ming Cho Lee was the head of the design program there at that time, and I had never before had the opportunity to think about design's place in theater. That was very significant. Also about new play development, because the Yale School of Drama has a big focus on playwriting. That was something, again, that I hadn't had a lot of experience with before. That too was very significant, being able to work with writers. So I got a lot out of Yale, but I didn't feel completely comfortable.

WJN: Were your parents, like many Jewish parents, concerned about you choosing theater, rather than something more, shall we say, stable?

Mendeloff: I think so. My parents were very concerned about the theater as a profession.

After Princeton the group of us who came together on Caucasian Chalk Circle founded a Jewish theater company in Brighton Beach, called the Brighton Lights Theater Company. The summer before I went to Yale, I was living in Brighton Beach with seven people in a one-bedroom apartment with no bathtub or shower, taking baths at the public baths, and performing on the boardwalk.

WJN: And here I thought I was the only one who lived like that after college. (Laughter)

Mendeloff: Right. You go off with your buddies to make art and you live on $7 a week.

WJN: Dumpster diving… (Laughter)

Mendeloff: Dumpster diving, definitely. All we did was pass the hat.

WJN: When you say Jewish theater company, were you doing Jewish material?

Mendeloff: It was all Jewish material. I.L. Peretz, Sholem Aleichem; we were doing medleys from Fiddler, working on all sorts of stuff like that. The group was predominantly Jewish, although there was an Episcopalian minister's son, blonde hair, blue eyes. People would say when they met us, (Mendeloff smoothly slips into a Yiddish inflected accent,) "You're from Princeton? Do they let Jews go to Princeton? Do they let women go to Princeton?" And then they'd go, "Why are you here? If you went to Princeton, what are you doing here?" (Laughter)

We performed at the Brighton Beach baths. We were on the band shell, and everyone in the audience was on a chaise lounge, lying back, with the sun reflectors. (Laughter) We were looking out at a sea of us reflected in all of these sun reflectors. It was wild. My friends ended up doing that for a longer period of time, while I went away, to Yale Drama School. I don't see how I could have dragged myself away. (Laughter)

I met my husband, Jeff Curtis, after graduate school, when I was directing and teaching in Baltimore, at the University of Maryland. We then moved to San Francisco because he got a fellowship at University of California San Francisco. That was a hard move, I knew no one, he was very busy. I got a job at San Francisco State; I was kind of thrown right in. It was one of those departments where most of the faculty was about to retire and really didn't want to work very hard, so they threw a lot of classes at me that your normal beginning teacher wouldn't get. It was a really talented group of kids. I directed Three Sisters, which was very challenging and very satisfying, and I also ran their summer theater. Then my job disappeared. I'd always wanted to work on this play called Rundown by Robert Auletta about a Vietnam veteran returning home. So I went to Vietnam veteran counseling centers, there were a lot of them in the early 80s, and asked if I could do a performance to benefit their organizations. I directed that, got a lot of good press on it and then got asked to be artistic director of a theater company, Talespinners, that developed new plays. They originally hired me to direct Studs Terkel's Working, which was very successful, and then I became their Artistic Director. I changed the focus of the theater to developing oral history, focused on Bay Area history and issues. I really came to know the Bay Area in a very exciting way. We developed forty new plays in the time I was there, in five years. I was working with playwrights, learning about fascinating history. It was very hard work too, the economic climate was very bad, early eighties, Reagan, it was tough. I also had my two babies during that time. Then my husband got a job here, and as hard as it was for me to extricate myself, I was actually kind of relieved, because running a theater company was too much, and I wasn't doing enough of what I loved to do. I was writing the grants, trying to keep the thing going…. So we all came here and I got a job at the RC and the rest is history.

I love to work on Chekhov. I've done a lot of work with a local woman named Leonora Ivanitsky, she was a director and critic in Russia, in the Ukraine and also in Moscow, and she connected me to people from the International Chekhov Festival, so that I got to bring a play to that Festival. We've been to Russia to work with new playwrights; I brought a new Russian writer for a residency here. I'm still directing Lorca and Ibsen, and of course Shakespeare. I feel like my Jewish background and sensibility has a big impact on who I am as an artist, even if I'm not doing things which are specifically Jewish. I feel as a Jew, and as a woman, having that awareness of the outsider, gives me a connection to characters and themes that are outside of the mainstream, and that's something I find very valuable.

I've found a really nice compromise because I work on plays in my classes, which the RC allows me to do. The Residential College is so supportive of someone like me. I'm teaching in a place where I can be myself and work the way that I like to work, and it's appreciated. I don't have to feel as though I'm trying to fit into somebody else's idea of what an academic is, or what a professional director is. I can walk those two walks at the same time, which is really, in a way, always who I've been. I've always been interested in a lot of things, but wanted to pull them together in a creative way, and this teaching environment is really very, very special to me. ■

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Shavuot with a French accent

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA)—Joan Nathan says she's always had a particular fascination with French Jews and their food.

For Nathan, author of *Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France* (Knopf, 2010), the love affair with French cuisine started as a teenager when she made her first trip to France in the 1950s.

The prolific cookbook author says the simple pleasure of sampling a slightly melted bar of chocolate sandwiched into a crackly baguette transformed her life.

Believing a girl's education should include fluency in other languages, her father approached a cousin in France who opened his home, immersing Nathan in his culture.

"Because I have relatives and friends who are French, I'm always curious what they're doing for holidays," said Nathan, who relishes visiting people's homes to see what they eat and how they celebrate.

Falling seven weeks after Passover, Shavuot is a minor holiday with major importance, as it commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

It is traditional to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, which this year falls on June 8, because of the purity of the Torah.

Nathan has vivid memories of the holiday in France from the past few decades.

Many French Jews attend synagogue in the morning and come home for a well-rounded meal at lunch—more like a dinner—as opposed to a typical American bagels-and-lox brunch.

While the French often incorporate dairy products into recipes, they don't go overboard on Shavuot the way Americans do by eating a meal composed almost entirely of blintzes, kugels and cream cheese. The French, however, do enjoy a good cheesecake.

The most important element at French holiday celebrations is a sense of style, with elegant table settings and presentation of food. Even the least affluent Jews serve food with great care for its appeal.

Some 600,000 Jews are living in France, making it the third largest Jewish population in the world after Israel and the United States. French Jewish history goes back 2,000 years.

Many cultures have seasoned French Jewish cuisine. Over the centuries, Jews have come to France from Spain, Portugal, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and North Africa. Moving back to their original countries with French recipes, some Jews later returned to France, bringing back variations of dishes they had taken with them.

"Food has never been static," Nathan said. "Even old recipes are in a constant state of flux and refinement, subject to outside influences and improvements."

French Jews tend to be discreet about their religion, mostly in response to centuries of anti-Semitism. This is why Nathan, as the title of her cookbook indicates, had to search for Jewish cooking in France.

In recent decades, North African Jews have built a vibrant life in France. From Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, they revel in their Jewishness. Fragrant with spices, such as harissa (hot red chili sauce), their foods are easy to find in French markets. Their tasty salads, sumptuous stews, hummus and couscous have great appeal for French Jewish families.

Recent decades have seen intermarriage between Ashkenazim and Sephardim in France. With cross-cultural menus becoming the norm, Sephardic food is overtaking traditional Ashenazi cuisine.

Aware of this reality, a friend of Nathan's pleaded with her, "Please find the old Ashkenazi recipes before they die out in France and it's too late."

"My whole life has been about guarding the legacy of Jewish food," said Nathan, whose research in France found many traditional Jewish foods can be traced to other countries.

"I love French cooking," said Nathan, marveling at its variety. "The recipes in my cookbook are easy, and I use as many of them as possible on Shavuot."

The following recipes are by Nathan from *Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France.*

Fougasse

A traditional Sabbath and holiday bread usually made with oil but at Shavuot is prepared with milk.

- 2 teaspoons active dry yeast
- ½ cup softened butter
- 1 ½ cups milk, heated to lukewarm
- 6-8 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ¼ cup honey
- Semolina for scattering
- Olive oil for brushing

Put the yeast, butter, and lukewarm milk in the bowl of a standing mixer and blend. Gradually add 6 cups of flour, the salt, and honey to the yeast mixture, stirring with the dough hook and adding more flour as necessary until the dough comes together.

Form the dough into a ball and let it rise in a bowl, covered, for 1 hour. Then divide the dough into 2 equal portions. Roll out each into an oval about ¼-inch thick.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees, scatter some semolina on a cookie sheet, and transfer the dough onto the prepared sheet. Let rise for 30 minutes.

Brush each loaf with olive oil and bake in the oven for about 20 minutes. Eat when warm, if possible.

Yield: 2 loaves of Fougasse (Dairy)

French Cold Beet Soup (Borscht)

Russian immigrants before World War I brought Borscht recipes to France.

- 2 pounds raw beets (about 4)
- 1 pound onions (2 medium sized)
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and left whole
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup sour cream
- 4 tablespoons fresh dill, chervil, or mint cut into chiffonade

Peel the beets and onions. Cut them into chunks and toss them together in a large soup pot. Pour in about 2 quarts of water, or enough to cover the vegetables by an inch or so. Add the garlic, sugar, salt, and pepper to taste.

Bring to a boil, skimming the surface of any impurities that rise. Lower the heat, cover, and simmer for about an hour, or until the beets are cooked. Stir in the vinegar and let cool.

When the soup has cooled off, ladle the vegetables and some of their broth into a blender and puree to the consistency of a thick soup. Adjust the thickness and seasoning of the soup to your taste, adding more beet broth for a thinner soup.

Serve cold in soup bowls with a dollop of the sour cream and a sprinkle of one of the herbs.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings (Dairy)

Salmon with pearl onions, lettuce and peas

This recipe has been handed down through the generations since the first Jews left Spain during the Inquisition.

- 10 ounces pearl onions
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 5 large lettuce leaves (preferably Romaine or Bibb), washed and halved
- 2 cups shelled peas, fresh or frozen and defrosted
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 sprigs fresh summer savory
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 2 pounds salmon fillets, cut into 4 to 6 servings

Bring a small saucepan of water to a boil. Drop in the pearl onions and boil for 3 minutes. Turn off the water and remove the onions with a slotted spoon to a bowl of cold water. When they reach room temperature, cut the root ends and pop onions out of the skin.

Melt the butter over medium heat in a Dutch oven or other heavy-bottomed pan. Stir in the onions and the lettuce, and saute for 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the peas, sugar, thyme, savory, parsley, salt, pepper, and ¼ cup water. Cover and simmer slowly for about 5 minutes.

Gently nestle the salmon pieces among the peas, onions, and herbs. Cover and cook for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the salmon is just barely cooked through. Pluck out the herb sprigs and serve.

Yield: 4 to 6 servings (Dairy)

Sweet Couscous

Popular year-round among North African Jews in France, for Shavuot this dish is made with butter and served with yogurt.

- 4 pounds onions (about 8 medium sized), peeled and thinly sliced in rings
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil or butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Pinch of saffron
- ¼ cup raisins
- ½ cup sliced or roughly chopped blanched almonds
- 1lb. (about 2 cups) uncooked couscous
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Optional accompaniment: yogurt

In a frying pan, saute the onions in the butter or oil over medium heat until translucent. Add the sugar and saffron, and continue to cook until caramelized and jam like. Add the raisins and almonds, cooking until the almonds are golden.

Prepare the couscous according to the package instructions, seasoning it with salt and pepper. Mound the couscous in the middle of a plate and surround with the onions, raisins, and almonds. Accompany with yogurt, if using.

Yield: 6-8 servings (Dairy or Pareve)

Tarte au Fromage (Crustless Polish Cheesecake)

This cheesecake, quite different from its American counterpart, reminds Joan Nathan of many she has eaten throughout France, including the one at Finkelsztajn's Delicatessen in Paris.

- Butter for greasing the pan
- ½ cup milk
- 16 ounces ricotta cheese
- 1 cup creme fraiche
- 5 large eggs,separated
- ⅔ cup sugar
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup raisins (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°. Butter a 10-inch springform pan.

Beat together the milk, ricotta cheese, creme fraiche, egg yolks, sugar, lemon zest and juice, vanilla, and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer or another large bowl.

Toss the flour with the raisins, if using, and beat into the cheese batter.

In a clean bowl with clean beaters, beat the egg whites to stiff peaks. Gently fold them into the cheese batter in three batches. Pour into the greased pan and bake for 40 minutes, or until golden and firm in the center. Allow to cool for at least 20 minutes before unmolding.

Yield: 8-10 servings. (Dairy)

June 2011

Wednesday 1

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Thursday 2

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *The Best Spiritual Writing 2010,* edited by Philip Zaleski. Noon–1:30 p.m.

Birthdays and Music: JCC–Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with June birthdays. Family and friends share lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Music students from Hebrew Day School will perform, including HDS Chorus, a recorder ensemble and Klezkids at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 3

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Grandparent/Special Friend Shabbat: JCC–Early Childhood Center. Ninth annual event for children to invite grandparents or a special adult friend to celebrate together after a weeklong focus on Shabbat as a study unit. Shabbat ritural items, such as challah covers and candlesticks, made by the children. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Service: Jewish Cultural Society. Held on the first Friday each month at the JCC, with songs, candle lighting, wine, challah, and short thematic program. Shabbat meal follows, featuring "Local Ann Arbor." $10/person; $25/family of 4. For information, and to RSVP, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Shabbat Service with Kol Halev: TBE. 7:30 p.m

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 4

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

T-Shirt and Eco Shabbat: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Morning Service: TBE. In the chapel. 10 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 5

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Hikers: TBE. For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch: JCC. Thanking volunteers, honoring outgoing Board members, voting on new Board of Directors, and reporting from committees. Families are welcome and childcare is available with advance notice. For information, contact rebekahgamble@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Jewels in the Crown Celebration: BIC Women's League. Annual celebration, presentation on Shavuot and Ruth: The Strength and Beauty of the Jewish Woman, Board Installation including recognition of the old Board, Membership Appreciation Luncheon, fun activities and games. In the BIC large Social Hall at 1 p.m.

Annual Meeting: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 6

Annual Spring Dinner: Ann Arbor Chapter of ORT. Dine with friends, recognize donors, and learn about latest achievements of ORT America. At the Quarter Bistro, 300 South Maple Road. $36/person. For more information or to arrange a ride, contact Anne Heybey Wasciuk at annehey@umich.edu.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *Behaalot'cha,* led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7

"Shabbat: An Oasis in Time:" Jewish Learning Institute. Explore the mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of Shabbat to unlock a model for how to find serenity and a transcendent frame of mind throughout life's experiences. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study: BIC. Judaism and Health. 8 p.m.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study: TBE. Late night study session led by Rabbi Delson. 8–10 p.m.

Shavuos Services and Study: Chabad. Evening Services at 8:50 p.m., followed by festive meal and all night learning.

Wednesday 8

Shavuos Celebration and Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Reading of Ten Commandments, ice cream party for children, followed by festive dairy meal for all, at 7:15 p.m. Evening services at 9 p.m.

Shavuot Shaharit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Shavuot Yiskor Service and Lunch: TBE. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. *(off ce closed)*

Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 9

JCC is closed for Shavuot.

Shavuot Shaharit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Including Yizkor.

Shavuos Services: Chabad. 9:45 a.m. Yizkor at 11 a.m. Afternoon and evening services at 8:50 p.m.

Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Friday 10

Poetry Writing Workshop: JCC Seniors. With Ray Adler, former instructor at Oakland Community College. First session of six-week class, beginning June 10. No fee. For information or to register, call Merrill at 971-0990.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Blessing of the Class of 2011. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 11

Shabbat Service and Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah: BIC Women's League. Torah readings, Parashat Beha'alotcha, will be led by the Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah class, led by Lisa Bernstein. For more information, contact Yvonne Wardle at fulloflife01@live.com or phone 945-8256. 9:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m. in the chapel.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 12

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Sisterhood Bowling League: BIC Sisterhood. Two hours bowling time plus shoe rental for $9.95 (Women's League members) and $10.95 (non-members). Note: This month's date is an exception to the normal schedule for the bowling event usually held on the first Sunday of the month at Colonial Lanes Bowling Center. For more information, contact Yvonne Wardle at fulloflife01@live.com or phone 945-8256. 2–4 p.m.

Summer Evening Fundraiser: BIC. Honoring Ron and Lonnie Sussman. 7 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 13

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

An Inspiring Evening: Jewish Women's Circle. Final event of the season featuring South Carolina singer Chavi Epstein who, through song and story, will strive to empower all women, Bat Mitzvah and older, to tap into their own divine source of joy. For more information or directions, contact Esther Goldstein at 769-3078 or email esther@jewmich.com.

Tuesday 14

"Shabbat: An Oasis in Time:" Jewish Learning Institute. Explore the mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of Shabbat to unlock a model for how to find serenity and a transcendent frame of mind throughout life's experiences. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 15

Introduction to Watercolor Painting: JCC Seniors. With Ruth Mark. Six-week class begins June 15. $80/JCC members; $100/non-members. For information or to register, call Merrill at 971-0990. 10-11:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Family Fun Night: JCC–Early Childhood Center. For all ECC families. Pizza, ice cream sundaes, bouncers and games. $20 per family. 6-8 p.m.

Thursday 16

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by welcoming Andrea Rosner-Najer, the new Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 17

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Calendar

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Shabbat Dinner: TBE Brotherhood. BBQ in honor of Ronnie Simon's retirement. Once monthly adult dinner held before services. $10/adult; $5/children ages 12 and under. Reserve at www.templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Honoring Ronnie Simon's retirement as executive director. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 18

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 19

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 20

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

Torah Trop: TBE. Ongoing weekly group with Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *Korach*, led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Singing Session: BIC. Review of Shira Hadasha melodies. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 21

"Shabbat: An Oasis in Time:" Jewish Learning Institute. Explore the mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of Shabbat to unlock a model for how to find serenity and a transcendent frame of mind throughout life's experiences. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 22

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Torah on Tap: TBE TNT: Twenties and Thirties Group Torah Study while drinking brew at The Earle, 121 West Washington Street. 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Thursday 23

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Meeting with Jewish Family Services social worker Shoshana Mandel1, who will be available for questions at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by a keynote speech from the recent 10th Annual Peter Wege Lecture on Sustainability, by Dr. Larry Brilliant, CEO of the Skoll Global Threats Fund. Discussion to follow.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 24

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 25

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Canoeing: TBE TNT. Twenties and Thirties Group canoeing on the Huron River, followed by relaxing at Dominick's. $12/person. RSVP by June 21 to Alexis Antracoli at aantracoli@gmail.com. 3–6 p.m.

Monthly Bridge Game: TBE Renaissance Group. **Monthly Bridge game for players of all levels, ages 55 years old and up. For information,** contact Lucy Cohen at cohenl@umich.edu. 7:30–9 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 26

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Annual Congregation Meeting: BIC. With dessert reception. 7 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 27

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

Senior Photography Exhibit: JCC- Seniors. Opening of the Senior Photography Exhibit. Meet the artists and view the photographs. Refreshments served. All photographers aged 55 and older have until June 10 to submit photos for exhibition in the JCC Amster Gallery. For information, contact Merrill Poliner at merrill@jfsannarbor.org or phone 971-0990. *Through July 31.*

Tuesday 28

"Shabbat: An Oasis in Time:" Jewish Learning Institute. Explore the mystical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of Shabbat to unlock a model for how to find serenity and a transcendent frame of mind throughout life's experiences. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Baseball Game: BIC Men's Club. Tigers/Mets Game at Comerica Park. 7:05 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 29

Busy Women's Dinner: TBE Sisterhood. Meet at Grizzly Peak. 6–7:30 p.m.

Thursday 30

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Food supplements are used by many people for many reasons. Are they useful or harmful? Are they effective or not worth the money? Robin Nwanko, UM nutritionist, will discuss these questions and others related to food supplements. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

July 2011

Friday 1

Senior Photography Exhibit: JCC-Seniors. Exhibit of work by photographers aged 55 and older. In the JCC Amster Gallery. For information, contact Merrill Poliner at merrill@jfsannarbor.org or phone 971-0990. *Through July 31.*

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Service: Jewish Cultural Society. Held on the first Friday each month at the JCC, with songs, candle lighting, wine, challah, and short thematic program. Shabbat meal follows, featuring "Local Ann Arbor." $10/person; $25/family of 4. For information, and to RSVP, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.

Barbeque and Barchu: BIC. Dinner at 6 p.m. Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 7 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 2

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 3

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 4

Tuesday 5

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet

Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Wednesday 6

Introduction to Watercolor Painting: JCC Seniors. Continuing class led by Ruth Marks, through July 20. $80/JCC members; $100/non-members. For information, call Merrill at 971-0990.

Thursday 7

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Birthday Celebration and Stories: JCC–Seniors. Celebration for all with July birthdays. Friends and family will enjoy lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by local storyteller Lynn Davidge, who will share stories of her life while prompting other people's stories.

Friday 8

Poetry Writing Workshop: JCC–Seniors. Continuation of class, with Ray Adler. For information, phone Merrill at 971-0990. *Through July 22.*

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 9

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 10

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 11

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

Tuesday 12

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 13

Israeli Scouts Performance: JCC Youth. Using song, dance, and storytelling, the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan celebrates Jewish heritage and brings the sights and sounds of Israel to life. Ice cream social follows performance. $3/Camp Raanana familes; $5/non-camp families. For information, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7 p.m.

Thursday 14

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by Dr. Fred Becchetti's performance of the "magic of science" as "The Magnificant Frederico."

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 15

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 16

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 17

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Hikers: TBE. Sponsored by TBE for the entire community. For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Adults Night Out: BIC Women's League. 7 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 18

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *Matot*, led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 19

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Tisha B'av Services: Chabad. 8:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 20

Thursday 21

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Meeting with Jewish Family Services social worker Shoshana Mandel1, who will be available for questions at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by a performance by a local musician.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 22

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 23

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 24

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 25

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Writing Your Wisdom: JCC–Seniors. Facilitated by Janice Thorup. Class begins June 13. No fee, but registration is required. For information or to register, phone Merrill at 971-0990. 9–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through August 15.*

Tuesday 26

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 27

Busy Women's Dinner: TBE Sisterhood. Meet at Quarter Bistro. 6–7:30 p.m.

Thursday 28

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Robert Faber, longtime Ann Arbor resident, politician, business owner, and columnist for annarbor.com, will bring his musings, stories and wisdom. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 29

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Shira Hadasha Kabbalat Shabbat Service: BIC. 6:30 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 30

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. Every Saturday.

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 31

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

August 2011

Monday 1

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *D'varim*, led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 2

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Wednesday 3

Thursday 4

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Birthday Celebration and Stories: JCC–Seniors. Celebration for all with August birthdays. Friends and family will enjoy lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by a performance by a local musician.

Friday 5

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat in the Park: BIC. At County Farm Park on Washtenaw and Platt Roads. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Service: Jewish Cultural Society. Held on the first Friday each month, with songs, candle lighting, wine, challah, and short thematic program. Shabbat meal, with "Local Ann Arbor" theme, follows for a charge. For information, and to RSVP, see www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 6

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of alendar.*

Sunday 7

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 8

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Tisha B'av Services: BIC. Service and reading of the Book of Lamentations. 9 p.m.

Tisha B'av Services: Chabad. 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9

Tisha B'av Services: Chabad. Morning services at 7:30 a.m. and Afternoon and Evening services at 8 p.m.

Tisha B'av: BIC. Shaharit service at 8 a.m. Mincha service at 2:30 p.m.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 10

Thursday 11

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by visit from Ann Arbor Mayor Heiftje, who will speak about his vision for the city.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 12

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service: BIC. In the tradition of Joey Newhouse. 6 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 13

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end o calendar.*

Sunday 14

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Sharsheret Meeting: BIC Women's League. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *Eikev*, led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 15

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *Matot*, led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 16

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 17

Thursday 18

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Meeting with Jewish Family Services social worker Shoshana Mandel1, who will be available for questions at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by visit from Linda Garfield, who will present on topical issues in current events.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 19

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Summer Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by different congregants weekly through mid-August. Services are about 45 minutes and are followed by an oneg. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 20

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 21

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Hikers: TBE. For the entire community. For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522 or by email at jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 22

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Tuesday 23

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 24

Thursday 25

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A local pharmacist will discuss medication safety. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday*

Friday 26

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Clergy-Led Shabbat Service: TBE. Led by guest speaker, Rabbi Shefa Gold. 7:30–9 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 27

Shabbaton: TBE. "Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days," with Rabbi Shefa Gold. 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

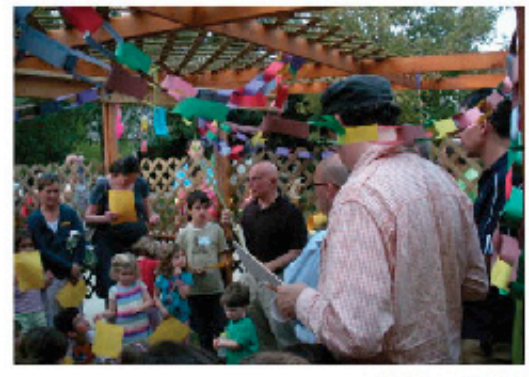
Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 28

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer

Temple Beth Emeth: A Home for Jewish Life



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- unparalleled Jewish music program
- ongoing social action

Shabbat Services: Fri. - 5:30pm Tot Shabbat & Dinner, 6:30pm Shira & Sukkat Shalom, 7:30pm. Sat. - 10am.
July and August: Fri. - 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat & Dinner, 7:30 pm service, no Saturday morning service.

Contact us

Rabbi Robert Levy
reblevy@templebethemeth.org

Cantor Annie Rose
cantorannie@gmail.com

Rabbi Lisa Delson
ldelson@templebethemeth.org

Ronnie Simon - Executive Director
rsimon@templebethemeth.org

Terri Ginsburg - School Director
tginsburg@templebethemeth.org

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Temple Beth Emeth

book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Shabbaton: TBE. Continuation of "Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days," with Rabbi Shefa Gold. 2 p.m.–5 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 29

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Tuesday 30

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 31

Pizza in the Park: TBE. For Religious and Hebrew School families and Families with Young Children in PS-3 through 5. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Busy Women's Dinner: TBE Sisterhood. Meet at Carson's on Plymouth Road. 6–7:30 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candlelighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Shabbat Service: Jewish Cultural Society. Held on the first Friday each month, with songs, candlelighting, wine, challah, and short thematic program. Shabbat meal follows for a charge. 6:30 p.m. For information, and to RSVP, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of frequently listed organizations:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM) 1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH) P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) 2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House 715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel 965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC) 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) 2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS) 2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation 2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah 2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE) 2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel 1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

June 6	8:21 p.m.
June 13	8:28 p.m.
June 20	8:36 p.m.
June 27	8:42 p.m.
July 1	8:57 p.m.
July 8	8:56 p.m.
July 15	8:52 p.m.
July 22	8:47 p.m.
July 29	8:40 p.m.
August 5	8:32 p.m.
August 12	8:23 p.m.
August 19	8:13 p.m.
August 26	8:02 p.m.

Picketers' intellectual assumptions, continued from page 37

of Israel's Jews are Mizrahim, who are physically indistinguishable from Muslim Arabs.

If we define race as a classification based on physical characteristics that reflect genetic markers, Israeli Jews are, in fact, one of the most racially diverse populations on earth. What unites them is not race, but religious heritage. Religiously-derived ethnicity provides the basis for Israeli Jewish nationality in much the same way as 57 other countries, including 25 Muslim states, define nationality in terms of official religion and extend special privileges to adherents of that religion. (Note, however, that followers of minority religions in Israel enjoy far greater rights than minorities in most Muslim countries.)

Likewise, the automatic right of Jews to return to Israel, an object of frequent criticism, illustrates the *lex sanguinis*, "the law of blood," by which individuals who claim family descent from the dominant ethnicity of a given country are entitled to citizenship in that country, regardless of where they are born or reside. At least 28 other countries, including Belgium, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, and Spain, employ some variant of this same principle in determining citizenship.

Finally, the separation between Palestinians east of the Green Line and Israelis, both Arab and Jewish, west of that line, is not racial, but a division between nationalities (one actual, the other aspirant) comparable to any other national division.

In short, far from being a racist anomaly, Israeli legal norms accord with those of other European and Mideastern countries.

3. Israeli expansion lies at the heart of Mideast tension.

Post-1948 relations between Israel and the Arab states, if we may summarize so vast a topic in a few paragraphs, are rife with intransigence and stupidity, but again there are no grounds for awarding Israel a monopoly on such behavior.

After 1948 neither side was inclined to conciliation. The ascendancy of Israeli hardliners over more dovish elements led to a series of provocations, culminating in Israel's widely condemned invasion of Sinai in 1956. For their part, Arab states imposed a diplomatic and economic boycott on Israel and sponsored guerrilla raids. Today Israel's occupation of the West Bank is the chief anti-Zionist grievance, but to 1967, before there was any such occupation, Arab states still called regularly for Israel's destruction.

Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Sinai, and the Golan in 1967 grew from the Six Day War, which in turn developed from the interplay of Israeli-Arab, intra-Arab, and American-Soviet tensions. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser may not have sought war in 1967, but his deliberate provocations forced Israel to chose between open-ended military mobilization and the illegal closure of its southern port, on the one hand, and war, on the other. This was no choice at all.

For ten years after its 1967 victory, Israel's Labor government refused to permit significant Jewish settlement in the conquered territories, and repeatedly offered to exchange the vast bulk of them for peace and recognition. When Egypt agreed to this formula in the 1970s, Israel promptly returned Sinai. But on its eastern front, Israel found no partner. And in 1977, when the expansionist Likud Party came to power, Labor's offer came off the table.

The Oslo peace process of 1993 to 2001 reflected the failure of Likud's Greater Israel project, combined with serious reverses for the PLO. Why negotiations ultimately failed to produce a settlement is the subject of conflicting Palestinian and Israeli narratives, both of which have considerable merit. The principal Palestinian claim is that settlement activity in the West Bank, which Likud had initiated, amounted to unilateral dictation that made a mockery of reciprocity. The Israeli counterclaim was that if settlements were insupportable, Palestinians should have agreed to a two-state solution that would have stopped colonization at once. What is incontestable is that by substituting violence for deliberations, the second intifada in the fall of 2000 destroyed any chance of an agreement, at least in the medium term. In effect, the second intifada repeated the Palestinian strategy of 1947.

In late 2008 the collapse of promising discussions between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reflected a similar dynamic. Those talks were scuttled by Hamas rocket fire from Gaza—from which Israel had unilaterally withdrawn in 2005—and by Israel's subsequent invasion of that strip. After Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in early 2009, he withdrew Olmert's concessions.

The current impasse represents a hardening of positions on both sides, with moderate rhetoric masking mutual intransigence, but with Israel becoming more isolated. Absent a new Israeli government, great power imposition, or a new round of fighting, it is difficult to see how the impasse will be broken.

4. Because Jews dictate America's Israel policy, the picketing of synagogues is justified to weaken the Jewish lobby.

Surely, it is not coincidental that the country with the largest, wealthiest Jewish community is also the one with the most consistently pro-Israel foreign policy. AIPAC is rated as the second most effective lobby in Washington, D.C. But as a total explanation of U.S. behavior, the above thesis, which aligns with John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt's poorly reviewed *The Israel Lobby*, is inadequate.

First, this thesis emphasizes domestic influences on policy formation to the total exclusion of strategic considerations, when in fact the benefits to the U.S. of an Israeli alliance have been considerable. As the region's dominant power, Israel has crushed states hostile to America, protected American clients like Jordan, and provided invaluable intelligence on Soviet and Iranian capabilities. The year 1967 was a watershed in American-Israeli relations because the Mideast military balance, not American domestic politics, saw a sea change.

If the Israel lobby dictated Mideast policy, that policy would defer reflexively to Israeli positions. But in practice, whenever differences arise, American self-interests trump those of Israel, as seen, for example, in the U.S. decision in 1992 and 1999 to help bring down two Likud governments, not because the Israeli lobby pressured it to do so—on the contrary, the chief Zionist lobbies were pro-Likud—but because the U.S. decided that Likud opposed basic American goals.

The second intellectual danger inherent in a single-minded focus on Jewish influence is that it ignores pro-Israel sentiment in the general American population. Some 80 percent of Jewish votes, and a comparable proportion of campaign gifts, go to Democratic presidential candidates. But George W. Bush may have been the strongest supporter of Israel ever to occupy the White House, while Barack Obama is seen by many Jews as one of the weakest. Zionist funding of Congressional races is negligible, and what money there is, goes overwhelmingly to Democrats. Yet Republican Congressmen—exactly one of whose 290 current members is Jewish—are arguably more supportive of Israel than their Democratic counterparts. Sympathy for Israel tends to correlate with political conservatism, as suggested by a 2010 poll showing that, while 63 percent of Americans identified more with Israel than the Palestinians (compared to 15 percent who identified more with Palestinians), the pro-Israel proportion among Republicans was 85 percent, among independents 60 percent, and among Democrats 48 percent. Hence, many of the most ardently pro-Israel voices come from areas in the South, the West, and the Midwest with virtually no Jewish voters and no Jewish lobby, but many conservative Christians. Without this generalized goodwill toward Israel, Jews—only 1.8 percent of Americans—would find themselves completely isolated.

Obviously, many Jews are more emotionally and financially committed to Israel than the general U.S. population. But in their support for the principle of a secure Jewish state, Jews are no different from some 90 percent of Americans. What is more, polls show, Jews as a group support substantially more dovish Israeli policies than the general population. Surely, most people at Beth Israel Congregation, insofar as they care about Israel one way or another (and a surprising number have no interest), fit this description.

Why, then, should a group that wants "peace" picket an expressly religious institution that takes no position of any sort on Israeli policy and whose individual members are more dovish than other Americans? Why not picket AIPAC or the Republican Party, which—unlike Beth Israel—are expressly political institutions? If one must profane religious worship with demonstrations, why not target Christian Zionist churches, which are far more popular and influential than Beth Israel? For that matter, why not picket the Ann Arbor mosque?

On some level, one supposes, the picketers are well-meaning people animated by empathy for the weak and a desire to humble the strong. But at the same time their actions suggest that they are in thrall to three unstated assumptions: a) An essential Jewishness renders all synagogue worshippers, hundreds of people about whose personal views the picketers know absolutely nothing, indistinguishable from one another and all worthy of weekly harassment, insult, and vituperation; b) Jews exercise enormous power outside public view; c) The very same actions acceptable in non-Jews—ethnic cleansing, religious nationality, diplomatic intransigence, terrorism—are unacceptable when committed by Jews. Where before in history have we seen deployed these same images of Jewish essentialism, secret Jewish power, and unique Jewish depravity?

A member of Beth Israel Congregation, Victor Lieberman is the Marvin B. Becker Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan, where he teaches a large lecture course on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jewish atheists, continued from page 17

is so trapped by the liturgy of our ancestors, we can't get past it," he told JTA. "People are afraid to say that language and worldview no longer speak to me, but I am authentically Jewish and I need language that expresses it."

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the URJ, was at the meeting where Beth Adam's application was turned down, and he agrees with the decision. While a congregation that disavows a belief in God would not be expelled from the URJ, he says, neither would it be admitted. And he hasn't heard of any Reform congregations espousing such a position.

"While individual Reform Jews may have questions about God, they are generally content to have Jewish liturgy that mentions God," he said. "People seem to be able to live with the contradiction."m Jewish atheism can serve a purpose by pushing Jews to demand meaning from their faith and its leaders, said Rabbi Kenneth Brander, dean of Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future.

Paraphrasing Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi of British Mandate Palestine, Brander said that atheism "is the pained response when religion becomes static, when God is described in childish ways. I think it's much better that people struggle with the issue, that they want a religious experience rather than not going to synagogue at all." ■

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Things To Do on My Summer Vacation

1. Attend the JFS International Lunch and Volunteer Appreciation event June 7 from 12-3:30 at Cobblestone Farm and RSVP to Jennifer@jfsannarbor.org
2. Collect extras at the grocery store with mom and dad to donate to the JFS Food Pantry
3. Set up a lemonade stand and contribute profits to JFS to help families with kids like me

Summer is usually a "down" time for charitable giving, but there is no down time for people facing some of life's greatest challenges. Their need takes no vacation. As JFS faces many local, state and federal budget cuts, please make a point to give generously to us this summer so we are able to keep helping those in need. **DONATE at jfsannarbor.org.**

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- Secular Humanistic Jewish Community
- Celebrating lifecycle events
- Engaging adult education & social action
- Monthly Shabbat gatherings
- Family holiday observances

Education

- Learning about Jewish culture & history
- Fun, interactive classroom experiences
- Music, dance, cooking, field trips
- Two year B'nai Mitzvah program
- Teen community leadership program

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www.jewishculturalsociety.org
734.975.9872

Vitals

Mazel tov

Lauren Goldberg on her bat mitzvah, June 18.
Allie Hirschl on her bat mitzvah, June 18.
Orly Rubinfield on her bat mitzvah, June 25.
Roxanne Pinsky on her bat mitzvah, June 25
Maya Burgard on her bat mitzvah, June 25.
Ori Bareket on his bat mitzvah, August 13.
Thea Spindel on her bat mitzvah, August 20
Abigail Hirshbein on her bat mitzvah, August 27.
Alon and Jennifer Weizer on the birth of their son, Guy Weizer.
Marc Lindenberg, son of Art and Karen Lindenberg, on his engagement to Krista Lanphear.
The Taylor family on the birth of Christopher Conrad Yegen, April 19.
TBE Religious School Assistant Sarah Krell, and her husband, Robert, on the birth of their daughter, Meredith Anna, April 20.
Ron and Lonnie Sussman, on the marriage of their son, Arie, to Jaimie Maveal, May 14.

Condolences

Lorraine Nadelman on the death of her husband, Sidney Warschausky, April 9. Also father of Seth Warschausky.
Jonathan Freedman on the death of his mother, Lila Freedman, April 8.
Elizabeth Sikkenga on the death of her great aunt, May Willer, April 25.

Advertisers

Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie 26
Ann Arbor Public School Educational Foundation 21
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah....11
Ann Arbor Summer Festival 36
Ark 23
Susan Ayer Photography 8
Ayse's Café 23
Bank of Ann Arbor....37
Bennett Optometry....29
Bread Basket Deli 15
Cardea Construction....18
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 21
Chelsea Flower Shop 39
Christian's Catering 29
Congregation Bet Chaverim 23
Dennis Platte Graphic Design....8
Encore Online Resale....26
Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair 25
Food Gatherers (Grillin') 3
Frankel Center....16
From The Hearth Catering 18
Gold Bond Cleaners....38
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel....8
Hebrew Day School 23
Carol Hoffer, CLU, CASL....2
Holocaust Memorial Center....38
Innovations Decor and Design....16
Jewish Community Center....39
Jewish Cultural Society....38
Jewish Family Services....38
Joe Cornell Entertainment....8
KSF Architects....26
Lewis Greenspoon Architects 2
Lewis Jewelers....5
Mast Shoes....5
Mercy's Restaurant 29
Modern Mechanical 37
MOSA Audiology 6
Paper Station 26
Penchansky Whisler Architects....21
People's Food Co-op....40
Michal Porath, Realtor....16
Probility Physical Therapies 6
River Raisin Ragtime Band 40
Selo Shevel Gallery....5
Simply Scrumptious....15
Pam Sjo, Realtor 2
Temple Beth Emeth....35
Trusted Loving Care 6
United Bank & Trust....25
University Musical Society....9
Village Apothecary....26
Zingerman's 39
Zinn House....2

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- Hear reports from committee chairs about the activities of the past year

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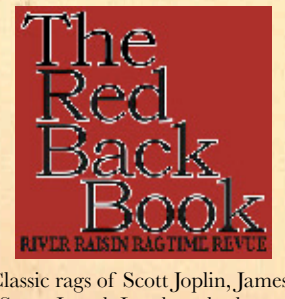

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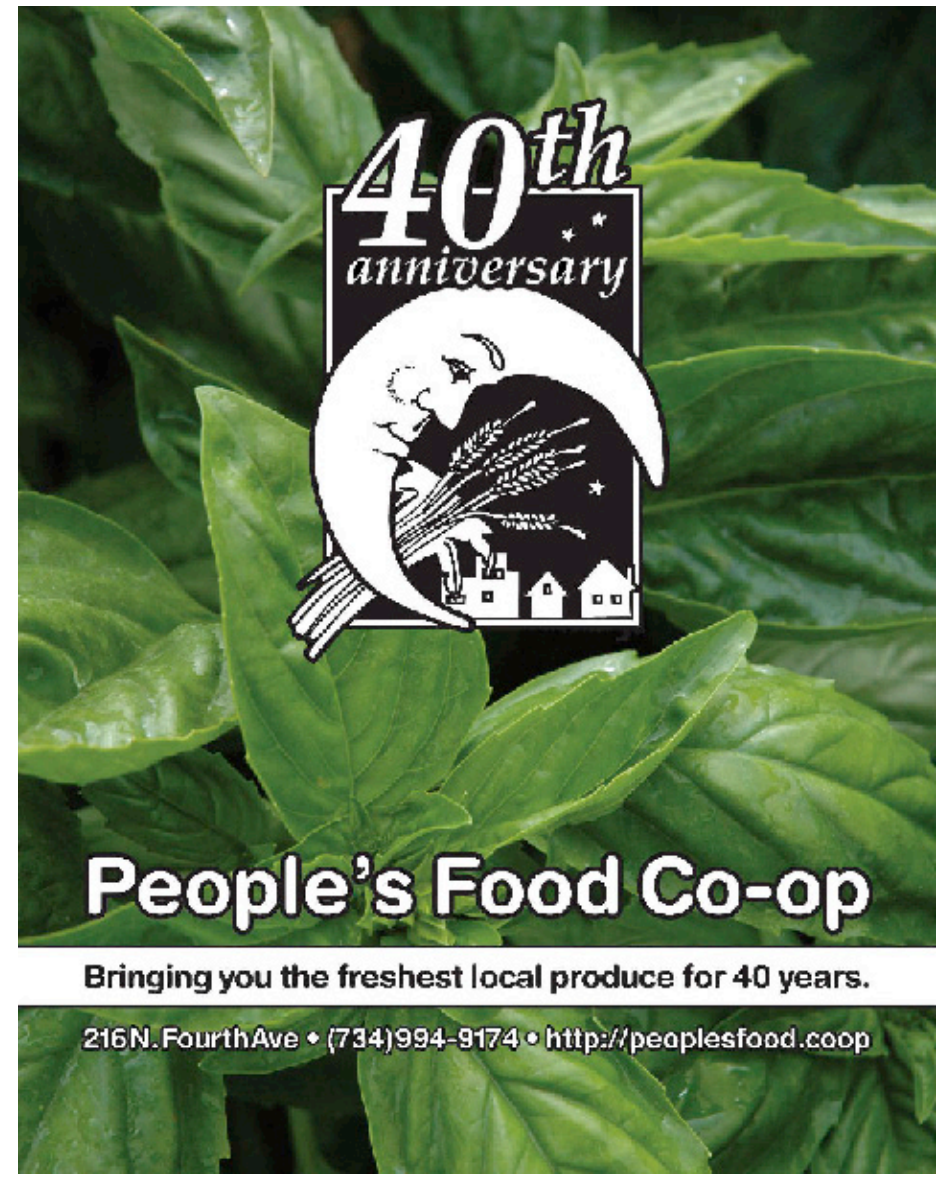
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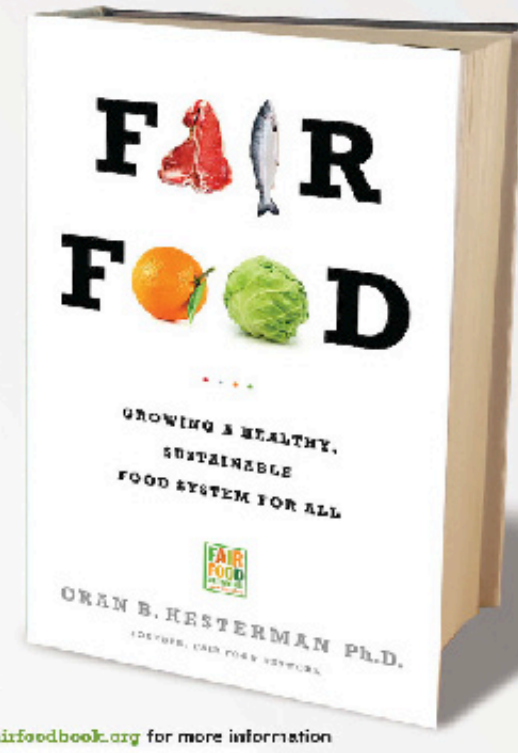

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